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Palestinian Affairs

Envoy on PLO View of Peres' Statements

NC2501185590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres' recent statements in Cairo "are not viewed as important by the PLO except to the degree that they reflect statements issued by the Israeli Government." He said: "The PLO will use statements issued by the Israeli Government as a basis for an official Palestinian stand."

In a statement to MENA today, the Palestinian ambassador remarked that Peres' statements, as one can see, indicate that he "wanted to protect himself with regard to his own and his party's plan." Kamal added that Peres has affirmed that the Palestinian delegation must not include a PLO member. Sa'id Kamal said this is despite the fact that "every Palestinian inside and outside the occupied territories is, according to the PLO's charter, a member of the PLO."

PNC Speaker Cautions USSR on Jewish Emigration

JN2501110090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Jan (WAKH)—His eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has urged the Soviet Union to curb the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. He drew Soviet officials' attention to the fact that their position on this issue affects the future of the Palestinian people and homeland, and harms the Palestinian cause.

In a statement appearing in today's issue of the Qatari weekly AL-'URUBAH, al-Sa'ih expressed belief that relations with the Soviet Union, nevertheless, should not be abandoned. We need the support of a superpower, especially since the United States supports our enemy by all means, he said.

Asked whether this year will be the year of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, he expressed hope this will be the case, "but achieving results in this proposed dialogue depends on the solidity of the Arab position and solidarity." he added. Through their unity and solidarity with their principal cause, the Arabs can put pressure on the United States, which, in turn, can press Israel into abandoning its intransigence and responding to peaceful overtures.

Asked about the possibility of holding an extraordinary PNC session, he replied: We might be compelled to summon the PNC into session if the United States and Israel continue their obstinacy and rejection of all peace initiatives despite the positive PLO stances. In this case, we will return to the representatives of the Palestinian people to decide other steps they have to take.

U.S. 'Dissatisfaction' With Shamir Remarks Viewed

JN1901185690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Radio correspondent's news analysis: "When Terrorist Shamir Reneges On His Statements"]

[Text] Only 2 days after his arrogant and extremist statements on what he called his need at the current stage for so-called Greater Israel to absorb the waves of emigration of the Soviet Jews and Falashas to Israel, terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, Zionist occupation prime minister, reneged on these arrogant statements. At a press conference he held last night, the old terrorist said that he meant the need for a unified and powerful Israel.

It seems that this retreat by terrorist Shamir has come out of his concern for the continuation of the Soviet Jews' influx into Israel, as he said. This means that he cares less about the political peace process in the region, which would be affected a great deal by such reckless statements. However, the opposite is true, because active Palestinian diplomacy as well as Egyptian diplomacy have moved quickly. It prompted Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to leave for Washington to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a time when Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Washington. This proves that the Arab stand, particularly the Egyptian stand, toward Shamir's statements is not revolving in a vicious circle. This proves that this stand is directed toward the U.S. Administration to push it face to face with Zionist procrastination and Israeli intransigence and arrogance, particularly by the Likud Party and its terrorist leader Yitzhaq Shamir.

At any rate, although Shamir does not admit that his retreat is the result of this quick diplomatic pressure, increasingly active Palestinian and Egyptian diplomacy in general and putting serious questions to Washington regarding the prospects and dimensions of the political peace process in the region this year will bring practical and actual pressure to bear on terrorist Shamir's government to force it to either join this process on a realistic and balanced basis, or to adopt another approach that has nothing to do with peace and its process.

In any case, the observers who follow the series of the U.S. statements over the past 2 days are wondering whether or not Washington has deviated from what was familiar regarding its relations with the Zionist occupation entity. U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan has expressed dissatisfaction with Shamir's statements linking Soviet Jews' emigration to what he called Greater Israel. Moynihan is considered a close friend of Israel and one of the strongest defenders of its policies. It seems that Shamir's stands toward the reactivation of the peace process in the region, and his determination to shackle every step toward peace with his known conditions—these stands have begun to face dissatisfaction even by the voices defending Israel. This dissatisfaction has led to the

submission of a proposal to Congress to reduce U.S. aid to Shamir's government. This could not have happened 2 years ago, for example.

Regarding the statements of Shamir and his Housing Minister Levi on absorbing the Soviet Jew immigrant newcomers in the occupied Palestinian territories, the U.S. State Department said through its spokeswoman that the economic and military aid—which is the most important—that Washington extends to Israel is not allocated to establish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

These developments have occurred during 1 week. Can this be considered a new U.S. approach to dealing with Yitzhaq Shamir's government, and is U.S. President Bush's Administration trying to tell the extremist and arrogant Zionist prime minister that the changes the international community is currently experiencing are not in harmony with his views and continuous attempts to keep the situation as it is? Answering these questions at the current stage would be premature. This is because in light of the strategic partnership between the United States and the Israeli occupation entity, these questions would be mere speculations or hasty deductions. Despite this, for the U.S. Administration to blame Shamir for the lack of progress in peace efforts is a precedent in the history of relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. One cannot belittle the consequences and reflections of this precedent.

We in the PLO are not trying to say that Washington is about to change its Middle East policies. This is because such a concept is not in line with political realism. However, what we hear from Washington these days regarding Israel's stands toward the peace process is outside the framework of the usual U.S. statements regarding the Israeli occupation entity.

'Arafat Given 'Several' Medical Checkups

JN2501194890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Sources close to the PLO in Tunis have said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat resumed his normal activities yesterday after undergoing several medical checkups in one of the Tunisian capital's hospitals following a slight indisposition.

'Arafat Says Intifadah Not To Use Weapons 'Yet'

JN2501193390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] In a press interview, PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat has stated that PLO cadres and the Palestinian masses are increasingly pressuring PLO leaders to resort to the use of weapons in the occupied territories. However, orders are, as yet, not to use weapons in the intifadah.

Yasir 'Arafat accused Israel of using chemical weapons in the occupied territories, resulting in 300,000 [as heard] miscarriages. However, the Israeli authorities rebutted these accusations. With respect to the peace initiatives, 'Arafat said that dialogue is revolving in a vicious circle and that Shamir is pushing the entire region to the brink of a new war.

Weapons 'Guarantee' Intifadah 'Security'

JN1801203290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jan 90

[From the Palestine broadcast "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] We notice that there are some who are trying to bring the experience of the revolution security into the arena of the intifadah by twisting the task of armed security into protesting the assassination of agents and occasionally attacking intifadah activists. This phenomenon, which is reminiscent of the role played by some during the 1936 [Palestinian] revolution, gives rise to bitter questions about the reality of those who stand behind it.

A weapon in the hand of any youth inside the occupied homeland is a great opportunity to kill a Zionist soldier in return for any martyr that falls in the course of the intifadah. The only justification for possessing a weapon is to use it in resisting the enemy. Thus, it becomes the real guarantee for the intifadah's security. This is because the enemy is deterred from opening fire on our citizens only when it realizes that its bullets will be confronted by bullets and that the soldier who is careless about the souls of our people can be killed, must be killed. Then, this soldier will refrain from committing his crime even if he receives orders to that effect from his commanders.

A weapon in the hand of a Palestinian youth is equal to the soul. Definitely, this weapon is not for defending the enemy's agents nor attacking any nationalist force, no matter how different its opinions are. Precisely, this weapon should be used to fight fire with fire and to erase the shame of the occupation with fire. Weapons are for resisting the occupation troops and preventing the settlers from attacking the Arab citizens by making them pay dearly for their attacks.

Algeria

Renewal Party Rejects National Pact

LD2001103290 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Political parties are in the headlines every weekend on the occasion of meetings or the setting up of regional branches. One observation: there are several of them now on the scene. It was (Noureddine Boukrouf), the PRA [Algerian Renewal Party] chairman from Guelma, who put his cards on the table. (Boukrouf) said he is opposed in principle to any idea of a national pact with the party in power, so reacting to the idea put forward during last Wednesday's TV debate with Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.

As for the PSD [Social-Democratic Party], it said yes, but. The PRA is categorical. It says no and if a national pact is achieved, it will be there to counter the present regime. So it is clear, the PRA declares itself as an opposition party.

FLN Issues Communique on Azerbaijan Events

LD2301225890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Azerbaijan—Only 24 hours until end of the ultimatum from Moscow. [passage omitted] Regarding these events in Azerbaijan, the National Liberation Front [FLN] party has published a communique from its political bureau which says: The development of events in Azerbaijan could take a dangerous turn if the efforts undertaken do not take the situation under control in this republic. The communique also stresses that the outbreak of nationalist, religious and political conflicts in a region where relations between neighboring countries are complicated, and where some of them are still living under the scars of the past and the result of imposed regimes, do not contribute in any way to guaranteeing peace and the development of cooperation between peoples. In the light of this dangerous situation, the National Liberation Front party calls for dialogue and consultation to avoid the use of force to settle existing problems.

The FLN party communique concludes, I quote again: More than ever the resolution of these problems needs respect for public freedom, particularly religious freedom and the definition of new relations between the states concerned. This path, adds the FLN communique, will facilitate a solution desired between neighboring countries through peace and tranquility, end of quote.

Students Term Talks With Official 'Sterile'

LD1601233590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The delegation of the students and teachers at the higher school for technological studies in Oran stated that it is disappointed following its meeting with the minister delegate for universities, Abdessalem Ali Rachdi, and the governor of the wilaya of Oran. Students, who were present at this meeting described the discussion as sterile, because it did not lead, in their opinion, to any firm and final decision on the problems arising from the reduction the sponsorship allowance and gendarmerie forces' violation of the sanctity of the higher school for technological studies, despite the opposition of the minister attached to the universities.

As far as the delegate's stance on the incidents that took place at the higher school for technological studies is concerned, Ali Rachdi stressed, while regretting the fact that such incidents had taken place—incidents which were characterized by repression and violence—that he is committed to convey the students' worries to the government in order to resolve them. He added that he, in his capacity as the official in charge of the universities, will firmly defend the students' stance.

Communique on Qatari Amir's Visit

PM1501153890 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Jan 90 p 2

[APS report: "Constant Development of Trade"]

[Text] At the end of the official visit to Algeria by Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, a joint communique was issued. The following is the translation:

In view of the fraternal ties between the State of Qatar and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and their desire to continue strengthening relations between their two fraternal peoples in different spheres in the framework of joint Arab action to increase solidarity, cooperation, and unity among the peoples of the great Arab nation, and respondingse to an invitation sent by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, made an official visit 4-7 January to Algeria.

The Amir of the State of Qatar was welcomed warmly by the Algerian leadership and people, reflecting authentic fraternal relations between the two fraternal peoples and the esteem and deep respect which Algeria, its president, government, and people feel for the Amir of the State of Qatar, his government, and his people.

In an atmosphere of sincere fraternity and perfect understanding, and as a contribution to strengthening inter-Arab cooperation, the two Arab leaders discussed Arab, Islamic, and international questions of great concern, particularly bilateral relations and ways and means of strengthening them.

Support for the Palestinian People's Intifadah

These talks, attended by top officials from the two countries, showed a similarity of viewpoints between the two sides on all questions discussed.

The Amir of Qatar reviewed results of the 10th summit of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries 18-21 December in Muscat. The president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria expressed deep appreciation of the GCC's efforts to consolidate foundations of cooperation and strengthen joint Arab action aimed at achieving complete Arab unity and safeguarding common Arab and Islamic interests.

Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani paid tribute to the constant, sincere efforts by the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria under President Chadli Bendjedid's leadership to improve the Arab atmosphere, consolidating inter-Arab solidarity and strengthening joint Arab action.

The Amir of the State of Qatar reaffirmed Algeria's vanguard role in this context deserves recognition.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories and their just national demands, namely regaining their legitimate rights to freedom, independence, and self-determination, and establishment of an independent state on their territory under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The two sides strongly condemned the inhuman acts and practices used by the Israeli military forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories to crush their intifadah, stifle their voice, and thwart their rights, urging the international community to make as much effort as possible to force Israel to end these practices, which are a flagrant violation of international documents and law.

To Restore Lebanon's Security and Stability

The two sides stressed the urgent need to find a just, lasting settlement to the Palestinian question based on what the international community has agreed to; namely an international conference under UN auspices involving the five permanent Security Council members and all concerned parties, including the PLO, on equal footing.

Reviewing the latest developments in the Lebanese situation, the two Arab leaders expressed support for the legal Lebanese authorities, represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government of national accord. They also are convinced the present crisis can be overcome and the situation in Lebanon eased only by strengthening and rallying all categories and factions to support the legal forces and the government of national accord in its efforts to reunite the country and restore security, stability, and sovereignty throughout its national territory.

His Highness the Amir expressed deep gratitude for the great efforts made by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee—to which Algeria made a great contribution—to restore legality in this fraternal Arab country, paving the way for solving its crisis in the framework of agreement and harmony among all its children responding to the united Arab desire supported by the international community.

The two sides also discussed the latest developments on the Arab scene, namely creation of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council which, together with the GCC, are a positive step toward uniting potential, according to the Arab League Charter, to achieve its supreme objectives and respond to the Arab nation's ambitions and aspirations in different countries.

Iraq-Iran: For the Implementation of UN Resolution No 598

The two sides reaffirmed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the three Arab councils in the framework of the Arab League Charter. This certainly will help strengthen joint Arab action, seen as the best way of fulfilling the Arab Nation's hopes and strengthening its countries' position in their relations with the world's different economic entities.

The two sides also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf region, regarding it negative and damaging to the interests of the two neighboring Muslim countries—Iraq and Iran—and the region. They also expressed full support for resuming the UN Secretary General's efforts to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table to achieve implementation of all clauses of Resolution No 598, which settles the conflict in an equitable way and guarantees restoration of real peace between the two warring sides, enables them to direct their efforts toward building and development, and strengthens security and stability in the Gulf region.

Regarding the West Saharan conflict, the two sides reaffirmed support for efforts and approaches made jointly by the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general, aiming to end this conflict through peaceful means according to the charters of the two organizations mentioned above.

Oil: Ensuring Price Stability

Regarding international relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction with signs of detente appearing in international relations, hoping world hotbeds will disappear, regional problems will be solved, and peace and stability established in the world.

The two sides also welcomed results obtained by the ministerial conference for Euro-Arab dialogue conducted 21-22 December 1989 in Paris before the foreign ministers of the Arab countries and those of the EC, expressing in this context their conviction this conference will help strengthen and consolidate relations between the two Arab countries and the EC, benefiting the peoples in these regions.

Considering Algeria and Qatar are OPEC members, the two heads of state referred to the agreement concluded

by OPEC on 28 November 1989 which establishes a new ceiling on production for all the organization's members.

They expressed in doing so their respect for this agreement, which aims at stabilizing oil prices at the world market level, and they expressed hope non-OPEC producers will contribute to efforts stabilizing the world oil market in the interests of all sides.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the two heads of state expressed their full satisfaction with the sustained development of these relations and agreed to strengthen and develop cooperation between the two countries in different spheres—economic, technical, commercial, cultural, and the media—in the interests of the two countries and the two fraternal peoples.

In this connection, Algeria and Qatar signed a cooperation agreement in the sphere of information and another agreement stipulating the formation of a joint economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation commission aimed at developing cooperation between the two countries in these spheres in accordance with their joint interests.

During this historic visit, medals were exchanged by President Chadli Bendjedid and his brother His Highness the Amir Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani. President Chadli Bendjedid decorated the Amir of Qatar with the "Athir" Medal of the Order of National Merit. The Amir of Qatar decorated President Chadli Bendjedid with the Medal of Independence.

His Highness the Amir of Qatar expressed his joy at visiting the fraternal Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and his appreciation of the considerable efforts made for general development and progress in all spheres.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome which he was given in Algeria during his visit and which reflects the strong ties between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples.

His Highness the Amir of Qatar invited President Chadli Bendjedid to visit Qatar, his second home.

President Chadli Bendjedid accepted the invitation, promising to make the visit as soon as possible.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Tells VOA of Obstacles to Peace

NC1801081190 Cairo MENA in English 2308 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, Jan 17 (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy premier and foreign minister, stressed, in an interview with the Voice of America tonight, that he felt a sincere desire, during his talks with U.S. officials, to overcome obstacles and hardships impeding the peace path in the Middle East.

His visit to Washington was primarily aimed at making direct contact with Secretary of State James Baker and having talks on the American peace initiative, in addition to discussing bilateral relations and briefing U.S., IMF, and World Bank officials on economic reforms in Egypt, 'Abd-al-Majid said. He further added that he passed on a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Baker on peace efforts in the region within the context of Egypt's keenness on continuing the peace process and its appreciation of the U.S. role in this respect.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid further voiced his hope that the tripartite meeting, grouping Secretary of State James Baker, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and himself, would be held here to move forward peace efforts in the region.

In reply to a question on the topics which Israeli acting Premier Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo next week would tackle, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the visit was linked with efforts to achieve peace, stressing that it would be an opportunity to have talks with Peres on the peace march. In response to another query on Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's intention to meet with the Israeli defence minister, currently in Washington, he said that there was no pre-arrangement for the concurrence of the two visits, and that it was just coincidence, adding, there is no intention till now to meet with Rabin.

Dr 'Abd-Al-Majid stressed the importance of Washington's understanding of Egyptian comprehensive economic reforms and the seriousness with which Egypt aimed at securing those reforms. He, moreover, said that he would discuss with U.S. officials U.S. aid to Egypt, pointing out that U.S. aid to other countries should not be associated with a reduction in U.S. aid to Egypt.

The Egyptian foreign minister made it clear, at the end of the interview, that Egyptian mediation among parties to the Mideast conflict would continue, to reach a just solution to the problem.

'Abd-al-Majid Discusses Tripartite Meeting

NC2401000790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, declared today that Egypt is always eager to pursue ways to achieve peace and that it is in constant contact with all the parties concerned in this respect. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt is ready to attend the tripartite meeting in Washington if it will further promote the peace process and if it will prepare for the Palestinian-Israeli peace dialogue in Cairo, once the required conditions are met.

He pointed out that while there are points of agreement, some points of disagreement remain, and Egypt is eager to follow the road until it attains its goals. He noted that there is an atmosphere of gaurded otpimism, and Egypt is called upon to do whatever is necessary to achieve peace.

The foreign minister noted that during his visit to the United States, he perceived it was eager to continue in this direction, and he said Egypt appreciates the U.S. position. He noted that some outstanding points are still under discussion and that relentless efforts are being exerted to find a solution to them. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the need to walk that road and show perseverance, noting that only goodwill can guarantee these efforts will be successful and will lead to an agreement. He added: If there is goodwill and if efforts are exerted, this will inevitably lead a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo, which is the cornerstone of the peace process.

Mubarak, Jordan's Husayn Discuss Arab Issues

NC2501195790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned King Husayn of Jordan this evening. The two leaders discussed developments in some Arab issues.

AL-AKHBAR Views Peres Statement, Shamir Position

NC2601102190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0657 GMT 26 JAN 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper comments on the statement made in Cairo by Shim'on Peres, Israeli Labor Party leader, deputy prime minister, and minister of finance, in which he expressed his belief that the outstanding problems between Israel and the Palestinians can be resolved quickly or even in a very short time. The paper says optimism is apparent in this statement. It notes that his colleague in the Labor Party, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, announced in Tel Aviv at the same time that 20,000 people in the occupied Palestinian territories in West Bank and Gaza have been hit by his troops' gunfire and that 50,000 others have been arrested during the Israeli authorities' desperate attempts to put down the Palestinian intifadah.

In its editorial today, the paper says these official figures are much less than the actual numbers and do not herald any change in the Shamir government's behavior toward the peace efforts being exerted by numerous parties, foremost of which are Egypt, the United States, and the EC countries.

The paper asserted that Shamir's insistence on settling the incoming Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories shows the true Israeli intentions toward the principle of withdrawal from the occupied lands. Without an agreement on this principle, the paper notes, no genuine peace can be achieved in the entire region.

In conclusion, the paper points out that if Peres' believes that the outstanding problems between Israel and the Palestinians can be resolved quickly and in a very short time, then it shows a great deal of optimism. The stand adopted by Prime Minister and Likud Bloc Leader Yitzhaq Shamir reveals the outright opposite, especially regarding the creation of a climate contributing to the solution of this problem. Shamir, the paper says, is eager every now and then to disturb this atmosphere.

AL-AHRAM on Israeli Ban on Palestinians' Travel

NC1301221590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper asserts that the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to ban several leading figures in the occupied territories from traveling abroad, allegedly for security reasons, aims to hamper any political activity these personalities may conduct abroad.

In its editorial in Sunday's edition, the paper explains that the ban imposed on the Palestinian figures seeks to prevent them from participating in any Palestinian delegation which the current efforts may form in order to initiate a dialogue with the Israelis in Cairo.

The paper says Israel fears any coordination that might take place abroad without a follow-up on its part. Moreover, the paper adds, Israel wants to assert to the parties concerned that it will continue to be the one who decides on everything relating to the future conditions of the territories and their inhabitants, be they leaders or constituents.

The paper expresses the belief that this Israeli stand was the cause of Washington's recent strong criticism of Israel, because these restrictions are considered to be new mines on the difficult road to dialogue.

Central Bank Signs Arab Monetary Fund Agreement

JN1501201690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Jan 90 p 6

[By Isma'il Badr]

[Text] Egypt yesterday signed an agreement with the Arab Monetary Fund [AMF] under which Egypt will obtain $26.2 million at an easy interest rate of 5.75 percent, which will begin after a grace period of 18 months. The loan will be repaid in four equal biannual installments. The AMF will transfer the loan to Egypt within 4 days.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid and for the AMF by its director general, Usamah Faqih.

Usamah Faqih said that the AMF has extended to Egypt loans amounting to $65.5 million over the past 14 months. He also said that the AMF has allocated $130 million for Egypt to be paid in the near future and that this loan will be used to promote the economic reform program in Egypt. He added that the AMF is extending cash loans to cover the deficit in the balance of payments of any member state, and that the AMF is also extending compensation, ordinary, and short-term and long-term loans.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Soviet Union

NC2001212890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Dr Hasan Salim, International Cooperation Ministry first under secretary and head of the Egyptian delegation to the subcommittee meetings for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union, has stated that the meetings have resulted in the signing of the protocol of the first subcommittee. A long-term program for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation has also been initialled. He said that the protocol provides for following up implementation of several industrial projects, such as the iron and steel factory, the Hulwan coke plant, [word indistinct] industry, and the aluminum and glass plants. He said that agreement has been reached with the Soviets on building pipelines for drinking water and sewage in Qana and Aswan, on providing universities with their needed instruments and tools, and on developing the al-Naqrah project in the Aswan Governorate to cultivate 60,000 feddans there.

Dr Salim pointed out that agreement was also reached with the Soviets on exporting stone grinding equipment and cylinders to Egypt and on providing the supply companies with the necessary technology. [passage omitted]

Visit of Tunisian President Postponed

NC2501190990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Diplomatic sources in Cairo have told MENA that the visit Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali had been expected to make to Cairo this month has been postponed. Another date will be set later.

Tunisian press reports stated earlier that this visit would begin on 29 January.

It should be recalled that Tunis is currently subjected to heavy rains and floods.

MENA also learned that Tunisian Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri met today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and informed him of the postponement.

Mubarak Orders 'Immediate' Aid to Tunisia

NC2601071690 Cairo MENA in English 1955 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan 25 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued directives to the government and ministries concerned to adopt immediate measures to send urgent assistance, including rescue materials and medical equipment, to Tunisia. Measures to load the assistance materials on Egyptian planes are in the process.

Mubarak Meets Party Leaders, Reviews Issues

NC2501191290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Following Police Day celebrations today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made a statement to journalists and other media personnel. Commenting on his talks with Shim'on Peres, the president emphasized the importance of making sacrifices for the good of nations and their progress, particularly as peace deserves every sacrifice.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made a statement to newsmen following Police Day celebrations. He said that President Mubarak had met with the leaders of the New Wafd Party, the Socialist Labor Party, the Socialist Liberal Party, and with members of the judiciary who had attended the ceremony.

During these meetings, President Mubarak reviewed and explained a number of domestic and foreign issues, developments in the Palestinian issue, and the efforts that are being made to resolve it.

He also reviewed the results of his recent talks with Shim'on Peres and the ongoing negotiations with the IMF.

His excellency also spoke about democracy and the need to bolster it. He emphasized freedom of expression and stressed that all political parties are national parties.

President Mubarak will meet again soon with the political party leaders in order to explain domestic and foreign issues.

Plant's Production To Replace U.S.-Built Tanks

JN2501170590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jan 90 p 1

[By Husayn Fathallah]

[Text] Abu-Za'bal—Dr Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid, state minister for military production, has announced that the first M1A1 tank will be produced by Military Plant 200 in July 1992. Al-Sayyid emphasized that so far 85 percent of the construction and technical work at the plant has been completed and that the plant will become operational for producing and repairing tanks in September 1991. He indicated that tanks will be produced to replace their U.S.-produced counterparts together with spare parts.

This came in a statement al-Sayyid made yesterday while accompanying General Carl E. Vuono, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, during his visit to Military Plant 200 in Abu-Za'bal. Dr Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid said the plant, in cooperation with the Armed Forces, is now considering several international offers to produce multipurpose armored personnel carriers.

Al-Sayyid said: The plant is currently repairing U.S. tanks of the M60A3 type in accordance with the plans

and requirements of the Armed Forces. It participates alongside Military Plant 100 in producing the required spare parts for heavy tanks.

Al-Sayyid added that the plant supports industries related to military production, opens markets for repairing and producing tracked vehicles for friendly states, and enhances Egypt's defense capability, combat readiness, and pan-Arab security.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Returns From Maghreb Meeting

LD2401202190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 24 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah from sisterly Tunisia after having attended the first session of the Arab Maghreb Union Council.

The brother leader was welcomed at the airport by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, and Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi. [passage omitted]

Free Unionist Officers Support Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2301162190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The Movement of Free Unionist Officers and the members of its historic leadership have issued the following statement:

The Free Unionist Officers listened to and followed with sincere revolutionary awareness the address by the brother of the revolution to the masses of the Basic People's Congresses on Friday evening, 19 January 1990 and they would like to stress the following:

1. No distinction or differentiation can be made between the leader of the revolution and the people's authority—which was wrested, thanks to the revolution, and then handed to the Libyan Arab people.

2. The leader of the revolution will remain the guarantor, the thinker and guide of the Libyan Arab people in its pioneering march for the affirmation of the people's authority, which is proving every day to be the only successful solution for eliminating the individual and partisan struggle for power. He is also the proponent of Arab unity and the liberation of man everywhere from oppression, injustice, arbitrariness, and exploitation.

3. There is no going back on the people's authority, which is proving every day to be the final objective of the masses throughout the world.

4. There will be no leader for the Libyan Arab people after Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, apart from their Basic People's Congresses, which we call upon to give the leader all the powers that will enable him to lead the revolutionary march and entrench the people's maturity.

5. There is no going back on socialism, which means economic and social justice in the society of partners and partnerships, and there is no room for the exploiters, the usurers, the bloodsuckers, the hirelings of colonialism and Zionism, and the CIA agents.

6. We confirm that the proclamation of the people's authority on 2 March 1977, and the Green Book with its three chapters, guided the Libyan Arab society to possess the authority, the wealth, and the weapons.

7. All the members of the Movement are citizens who carry out revolutionary action through the legitimacy of the people's authority at the basic congresses and people's committees.

8. The Movement calls on all elements of the revolutionary force to fuse and melt into the Basic People's Congresses, which have the authority and the sovereignty and tells them that there is no revolutionary outside the revolutionary committees and no revolutionary committee outside the Basic People's Committees.

9. The Movement affirms to the Libyan Arab people its commitment to protect the people's authority and that they [the Free Unionist Officers] are loyal soldiers and a ready sword in the hands of the Basic People's Congresses and of the leader of the universal Al-Fatih revolution.

10. The Movement urges the Libyan Arab people to hang on firmly to the people's authority, without which they will perish.

Forward, and the revolutionary struggle continues.

[Signed] The Movement of Free Unionist Officers and the members of its historic leadership

Al-Qadhdhafi Says Western Democracies Outdated

LD1301105790 Tripoli JANA in English 1715 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi the leader of the great al-Fatah of September revolution asserted that liberty will never be victorious in Eastern Europe unless people's authority, people's congresses and people's committees were established.

During his meeting with the students of political sciences at Nasir International University, Qar Younis and Sabah Universities [names as received] yesterday, the leader said "if a party received power in the East European countries, this is considered a defeat to freedom. Following that, political and economic diseases will appear in those societies such as begging and unemployment.

"The world is living now in a state of revolution, which we have instigated. In the Soviet Union itself there is talk

now about people's authority and the masses in the Red Square chant for people's authority and not for the party."

"The world is now living a jamahiri mentality, perestroyka, which the third universal theory recommended without doubt. The measures now carried out by Gorbachev are jamahiri measures and they are inspired by the third universal theory. For now he is calling for joint work instead of collective farms."

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted that the Green Book says that the states which are formed from many nationalities will be ruptured and torn apart and each nationality will have its own independence and maybe the beginning is now in Azerbaijan, Lithuania and Yugoslavia.

He added "America itself according to the jamahiri theory will break out in it between blacks and whites, between Indians, Jews, Arabs and Yankees. A civil war will begin in America as is happening in Lebanon now. Each sect is fighting another sect."

The leader warned that the revolution of the people's of Eastern Europe must not be a temporary revolution and they return to submission to the party domination. He asserted that for this revolution not to be temporary is not possible except by establishment of people's congresses and people's committees in Eastern Europe, and the socialism advocated in the second chapter of the Green Book has been established. As a result those nations will lose nothing but they will be victorious.

He asserted that the current operations and circumstances in Western Europe and America will in the end lead to the transformation to the jamahiri regime peacefully or by war. The evidence on that is that Italy which is crowded with political parties, the masses demonstrate in the streets surpassing the parties which confirmed that those parties do not represent the masses. [sentence as received]

Col. Al-Qadhdhafi mocked Western democracies which are built on parties and parliaments. He said "the masses had passed these out of date forms which failed to present anything useful for these freedom seeking masses, as is the case in Britain and the West European states.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister Returns From Maghreb Summit

AB2501225090 Noukchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott last night from Tunis. He represented Colonel Maaouiyia Old Sid'Ahmed Taya, Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] chairman and head of state, at the first ordinary summit of the Arab Maghreb Union, which took place from 22 to 23 January.

In an interview with the press, the minister said that during this session, the heads of state reiterated the importance they attach to the Arab Maghreb Union and their willingness to strengthen it. He also explained that several important decisions aimed at consolidating the activities of the Arab Maghreb Union were approved, adding that a decision on the creation of a general secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union was adopted. [passage omitted]

Algerian Aid for Refugees From Senegal Arrives

AB1901124290 Paris AFP in French 1912 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 Jan (AFP)—An Algerian plane landed today in Nouakchott, bringing humanitarian aid of 25 metric tons to Mauritanians expelled from Senegal following the bloody incidents that took place last April between the two countries, an official source disclosed today in Nouakchott. The Algerian aid includes food, drugs and tents. The aid was handed over today by the Algerian ambassador to Nouakchott to the Mauritanian commissary for food security.

Kuwait Grants $100 Million for Fishery

AB1901124490 Paris AFP in French 1916 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 Jan (AFP)—The Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic development has granted Mauritania a loan worth $100 million [figure as received] after the signing of an agreement on Thursday [18 January] in Nouakchott by Messrs Moustapha Ould Abderhamane, the Mauritania minister of planning and employment, and Badr Al-Humeidi, the managing director of the Fund. According to the document, this loan will provide for the financing and development of traditional fishing in Mauritania. A harbor will be constructed for fishing activities in Nouakchott with maintenance facilities and other equipment.

The Kuwaiti loan will also be used to promote three traditional fishing centers established between Nouakchott and Nouadhibou (north), as well as the construction of an electric plant.

National Press Agency Changes Name

AB2201144090 Dakar PANA in French 1214 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 Jan (POOL-NA/PANA)—The MAURITANIA PRESS AGENCY (AMP) has changed its name to MAURITANIA NEWS AGENCY [AGENCE MAURITANIENNE D'INFORMATION] (AMI), announced the director general of the agency, quoted by the ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE, APS. The

MAURITANIA NEWS AGENCY, according to the director general, is also in charge of publishing the national daily CHAAB.

Sudan

SPLA Reports Capture of Government Garrison

EA2501165090 (Clandestine) Radio of The Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Combined forces of Meroe task force under the operational command of Captain Awad al-Karim Kuku, Volcano task force under the operational command of Captain Yunus Abu Sadr, and Ajabna task force under the operational command of Captain Kulang Mayen, and overall command of Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki, attacked the enemy garrison of Umm Dawrayn [in south Kurdufan] on 17 January 1990. One 120-mm mortar was destroyed and the enemy's food store was also destroyed. Half of the enemy soldiers in the garrison were either killed or wounded, and the garrison is completely besieged.

On January 19, the enemy sent a force from Kaduqli to rescue Umm Dawrayn. The convoy fell into a deliberate ambush by forces of Volcano and Ajabna task forces. Eleven enemy soldiers were killed and a Magirus truck and howitzer 122-mm were completely destroyed. The convoy was dispersed and remnants ran in disarray to Kaduqli. The enemy was forced to evacuate the garrison on Monday 22 January 1990 at 1630 [1430 GMT].

At the last battle, al-Ahimir task force under the command of Captain Telephone Kuku, joined the fighting. More details will be announced as soon as they are received.

Official 'Plays Down' Rebel Attack on Juba

AB2501103090 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] On this program yesterday, the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in Sudan warned that the bombardment of the southern regional capital of Juba at the weekend was just a prelude to a full-scale attack on the city. There have been reports of the people of Juba living in fear and up to 20 civilian deaths in the artillery attack and of aid agencies' poise to pull out of the city. But now the military in Khartoum are playing the whole thing down. From Khartoum Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] A statement from Army headquarters in Khartoum said that Juba was shelled randomly and it only affected limited residential areas housing displaced people. The statement repeated an earlier government claim that the Army had driven the SPLA off. The acting governor of Equatoria, (Benjamin Warile) is reported to have toured the areas where the shells fell. He appealed to the residents to show self-restraint and assured them that the Army was capable of stopping the SPLA from doing it again. There are reports from Juba, however, that citizens started to run away when the bombardment started, but that the Army stopped them from fleeing the town.

There are conflicting reports of the casualties in the weekend attack. The information minister claimed yesterday that only eight were killed. The Equatoria authorities put the figure at 12, but travelers from Juba said that the figure is higher.

Meanwhile, the government has denied claims from the SPLA that it had dealt a big blow to a government military convoy on its way from Juba to relieve the beseiged garrison town of Yei to the southwest. A military source said that it was the Army that had inflicted the losses. It said the SPLA lost equipment and lives when they tried to ambush the convoy 7 miles from Lanya.

Seventy SPLA soldiers were killed by the Army in the ambush. The Army spokesman said that 26 Kalashnikov guns, 2 RPG's, a machine gun, and 40 automatic rifles were captured by the Army. The spokesman said that 9 government soldiers were killed and 10 others wounded in the ambush. The SPLA, for its part, put the number of government soldiers killed at 55. [end recording]

'Besieged' Juba Residents 'Desperate' for Food

AB2501125190 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 25 (AFP)—The population of south Sudan's rebel-besieged capital of Juba is in a desperate condition, a relief worker evacuated from Juba overnight Wednesday told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Hours after the Khartoum Government announced that it was allowing aid flights to south Sudan, the worker said food rations in Juba were down to 200 grammes (seven ounces) of maize per day.

Some 16 people were killed and 40 wounded when the town came under rocket attack by the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) last weekend, added Emmanuela Bertoli of the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF).

The government named by the military junta in Khartoum Wednesday said it was lifting a ban on relief flights imposed in October after fighting with the SPLA flared up. The ban left Juba among other towns desperately short of food.

An estimated 200,000 displaced people are currently huddled inside the town boosting the population to more than 300,000.

Starving people attempting to leave to forage for food in the countryside are turned back by the Army, Ms Bertoli said.

People have started digging trenches in fear of further bombing.

A latest SPLA offensive southwest of Juba has sent a new wave of displaced people streaming into Juba seeking refuge.

Meanwhile representatives of the United Nations' Operation Lifeline Sudan and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were Thursday awaiting confirmation of the Khartoum announcement.

The government statement authorised delivery of 5,000 tonnes of food for Juba as well as regions controlled by the SPLA, but it was unclear if it meant a general resumption of relief flights.

Only the Nairobi-based Lutheran World Federation has been making regular air deliveries into Juba, carrying an average 30 tonnes of maize a day, under an agreement with Sudan Airways.

They are currently delivering food donated by Italy with assistance from the European Economic Community (EEC).

BBC Reports on Renewed Fighting in South

AB2201203890 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 22 Jan 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Renewed fighting in southern Sudan between government forces and the rebel SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] is having repercursions far and wide not only in the war zone, but in neighboring countries such as Uganda and Zaire. In the fighting, the SPLA has captured garrison towns including Kajo Kaji and Kaia and is causing an inevitable flow of refugees. We have four reports. The first is from Juba, the regional capital where refugess are arriving from the fighting around Kajo Kaji. Our reporter, Peter Butili of Radio Juba, telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Kajo Kaji citizens started just streaming to Juba over the weekend. There are already 3,000 of them, and they have been walking for 7 days over mountains and through forests. They were mostly children, women, and old men, and they looked sad, weak, and exhausted. They were dressed in tattered clothes and carried almost nothing with them apart from children tied to their backs. The assistant executive officer for Kajo Kaji, who traveled with the refugees, told me that the battle for Kajo Kaji lasted for 9 days. He said the SPLA used heavy artillery to bombard the town. The SPLA finally moved in with tanks and heavy infantry on the 6th of January and forced the government garrison to flee. He also claimed that the SPLA was using Ugandan vehicles in the assault. Ten government soldiers and five civilians were killed, and all the buildings in the barracks of the city were set alight.

The refugees claim that the SPLA were behaving extremely badly. They said the SPLA were raping women, robbing people of their property, and torturing and killing any people they suspected of being government informants. It is said here that more displaced people are on their way to Juba and the town may soon run out of food. [end recording]

But the refugees that are filing out from the flare-up in the Sudan war are headed not only northward toward Juba, but south into Zaire and Uganda. On the refugees arriving in Uganda, Festus Ebongu telexed this report from Kampala.

[Begin studio announcer recording] According to the government's own NEW VISION paper, around 20,000 people have so far fled for Uganda and neighboring Zaire. The exodus started after the SPLA captured the towns of Kajo Kaji and Kaia. Last Tuesday [16 January], houses in Kaia were still burning and the residents of the town and from Koba on the Ugandan side of the border started to move for fear of a Sudanese offensive to try and recapture lost territory. The Sudanese nationals mostly women and children, are now camped in primary schools around Koboko town. Another 200 are being house at Keri primary school, 6 miles north of Koboko.

Meanwhile, accusations are being carried by both sides. Uganda is accusing Sudan of supporting Ugandan dissidents. There are claims, for instance, that forces loyal to former President Idi Amin are fighting alongside Sudan Government troops. Sudan, for its part, has accused Uganda for supporting the SPLA. On his return from Djibouti this weekend, President Museveni denied the Sudanese accusation. He said that the conflict was purely a Sudanese affair. [end recording]

Well, Zaire has a slightly different problem. It is not only civilians who are fleeing southern Sudan: Around 400 Sudanese Government troops, who got word of the recent battles, have crossed the border into Zaire, and President Mobutu himself is apparently involved in discussions, not only to get them to return to Sudan, but to achieve a peace settlement. [London BBC at 1830 GMT on 22 January, in a similar report, adds the following: "Among those to have taken refuge in Zaire are the military commander of the Equatoria Region in Sudan, General (Paul Esayon), three senior officers; and some top political cadres."] From Kinshasa, Bassongo Buyemi telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Official sources in Kinshasa said the Sudanese Government troops had found themselves in the eastern Zairois town of Tisoro after retreating from a surprise SPLA attack and heavy fighting inside Sudan. The official sources said the Sudanese troops have been grouped together at Nisero and were now waiting for the arrival of the Sudanese military plane so they could be evacuated home.

Last Friday [19 January], the Zairois leader accorded a long audience on board his presidential yacht to Sudanese foreign minister Mr 'Ali Ahmed Sahlul. This meeting reportedly concerned the request to President Mobutu to intervene diplomatically in the Sudan war. It has been made clear in official circles in Kinshasa that the Zairois leader is very advanced in his contacts with the various parties involved in the war. It is said in these circles that at least three major discreet meetings took place recently between an emissary of President Mobutu and the Sudanese rebel leader, John Garang. It is understood that the results of this meeting, which took place in Ethiopia, will be communicated to President al-Bashir in Khartoum. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Juba itself is under increasing pressure. Aid is only trickling through. It has been under virtual siege for months. International agencies are taking their personnel and now it is coming under artillery fire. Lucy Hammond, our East Africa correspondent, has been in touch with Juba, and she sent this report:

[Begin Hammond recording] Juba was bombarded from its east bank in two heavy shellings [words indistinct] yesterday afternoon between 4 and 6 pm local time [1400 and 1600 GMT]. The heaviest shelling within the [words indistinct] concentrated toward the [words indistinct] airport. Twelve civilians were killed in a camp for the displaced near the airport and five government administrators were killed in a compound in the same weekend. In the town, the UN compound received the [word indistinct] hit, although damage was described as minimal and no personnel were hurt. Now, representatives from the UN say they are seriously considering evacuating for fear of the safety of their staff, and diplomatic representatives are expressing grave concern for expatriates remaining in Juba. The SPLA warned the expatriates to leave Juba at the beginning of their campaign [words indistinct] and most expatriate staff and (?aides) have withdrawn.

Despite the shelling, however, two relief flights flew into the town today. According to [name indistinct] who have been leased to [words indistinct] Sudan Air 707 by the Sudanese Government, they were continuing flying [words indistinct] and appealing to both sides to facilitate the relief operations. Only 700 tonnes of relief now remaining in Juba [words indistinct] last about a week.

This afternoon, Radio SPLA said it would continue its campaign in Western Equatoria and announced the capture of two more garrisons, and warned civilians and soldiers to flee. They said the [words indistinct] launched a massive artillery bombardment of Juba which will continue. When I spoke to Dr Lan Akol, a spokesman for the SPLA, he confirmed that Juba has been shelled by the SPLA, and so there were thousands of displaced civilians in Kajo Kaji and other newly captured towns [words indistinct] the relief. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally; Satellite Station Set

EA2301161790 Khartoum SUNA in English 0913 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Al-Junaynah, Sudan, 23 Jan (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has confirmed that the revolution had determined to uproot all forms of armed conflicts in Darfur region and to enable its citizens to enjoy peace and stability. Addressing a mass rally in Junaynah town [near the border with Chad] in the context of his current visit to Darfur region, General al-Bashir declared that the government had designed a quantity of 50,000 t [tonnes] of sorghum to surpass the region's food deficit. He reiterated that Sudan is keen to put into action the slogan of self-reliance and abandon asking relief. He re-emphasised the revolution's determination to regulate the border trade between Sudan and neighbouring countries.

Gen al-Bashir meanwhile announced that the Command Council decided the establishment of an earth satellite station at Junaynah towards linking it with other parts of the country through the national satellite network. [sentence as received]

He also reaffirmed the government resolution to fight off all aspects of corruption, calling on the people of Darfur region to join the productive work and to combat the phenomena of smuggling and black marketeering.

Earlier, General al-Bashir and his accompanying delegation attended a celebration marking the inauguration of a project for supplying al-Fashir town with drinking water from Shagra [name as received] area, western of al-Fashir. Addressing the ceremony, General al-Bashir said he had directed Darfur region's government with immediate planning of Shagra area and supplying it with electricity and water services. He announced that the region's communication system will be supported in order to make easier linking it with the other regions.

The same day, the Command Council chairman inaugurated al-Fashir's radio station, laid down the foundation stone of a technical school and inaugurated the new electricity station of al-Fashir which was established at a cost of 1.5 [currency not given] in the framework of aid by Denmark.

Deputy Premier Salih Meets Libyan Envoy

EA2201121490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Revolution Command Council [RCC] deputy chairman and the deputy premier, yesterday met at the Council of Ministers general secretariat His Excellency Ramadan Bashir, secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] People's Bureau in Khartoum in the presence of RCC member Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din.

His excellency, the SPLAJ People's Bureau secretary, stated that the meeting reviewed issues of mutual concern and the present dangers looming for the Arab homeland from the Zionists and international imperialism. He added that the meeting stressed the importance of the dignity of the Arab people.

Tunisia

Interior Ministry Report on Flood Situation

LD2501152690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpts] We have just received the following statement from the Interior Ministry:

Feverish efforts are continuing to deal with the consequences of floods that hit the southern and central parts of the country, especially following improved weather conditions yesterday. These conditions have facilitated intervention by regional and local authorities and national army and internal security forces to rescue citizens and to transport supplies to the victims as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Information obtained from the operations rooms says flooding has so far resulted in 21 deaths. Fifteen people are unaccounted for; rescue units were able to save 665 persons so far. Latest information also states that 13,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, while extensive damage inflicted on cattle has not yet been assessed.

Damages in basic infrastructure remains very extensive especially regarding bridges, roads, drinking water pipes, telephone lines, and electricity networks in various affected regions.

Radio Commentary Derides Governorate Attackers

LD2501154190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Station Commentary]

[Text] During this very particular time when the Tunisian people are showing solidarity with their brothers, who fell victim to to the floods one notices a group, whose heart is filled with hatred, who have been misled into attacking the governorate and the governor's house in Sindi Bou Zayd and storming some offices. These operations suggest that the perpetrators are perfidious people who stab backs, and also that they are people who take advantage of these difficult times the country faces as a result of the floods, in order to strike at the people as a whole in a desperate attempt to spread chaos, agitation, and dissent.

These methods no longer fool a people who have shown their ability to display effective solidarity. These individuals have once more proven they are vile and unscrupulous. They are like a virus which is destroyed when it attempts to harm a sound body, because the sound body is immune to a powerless virus, and because these individuals are sick people. Even malice backfires on its instigators.

Islamic Movement To Publish Weekly

PM1601115890 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Jan 90 p 8

["M.D." dispatch: "Tunisian Organization Allowed To Publish a Weekly"]

[Text] Tunis—On Monday, 8 January, the Interior Ministry gave the Islamic movement Ennahdha [Renaissance] permission to publish a weekly, which will be entitled AL FAJR (THE DAWN). Hamadi Jebali will be the editor.

Mr Jebali is one of the six members of the Ennahdha executive committee. The movement hopes to be able to turn the weekly into a daily later. AL FAJR will obviously be published in Arabic but the publication of supplements in French and English is envisaged.

Although this satisfies one of the Islamic movement's demands, recognition of the movement as a political party does not seem very close because the authorities have so far refused to register its application. The content of the future weekly could serve as a test before that new step is taken.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Receives Soviet Geology Minister

LD2501230890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1738 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 25 (KUNA)—Soviet Geology Minister Grigoriy Cabrielyants Thursday said here that the aim of his visit to Kuwait is to establish cooperation contacts in the oil and gas fields.

In a press conference he held at Kuwait Regency Palace, the Soviet official said he conferred with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah last Tuesday and offered five proposals.

The proposals included joint cooperation in exploring for oil and gas in any place of the world, particularly in South Yemen, examining the Kuwait earth layers, offering oil consultation to Kuwait, study the Kuwait desert and explore for water in Kuwait, the minister said.

In response to a question regarding Soviet oil exploration in North Yemen, especially after the planned unity between the two Yemens, he said the Soviet Union will not risk to explore for oil there where some U.S. and French companies are working, but "we worked for South Yemen for a long time".

He described the Arab-USSR relations as "very good" and there will not be any changes in the relationship after the policy of perestroika in the Soviet Union.

Regarding cooperation between the apartheid regime in South Africa and Israel in the nuclear sphere the official said "we condemned such cooperation because the international law forbids any nuclear technology cooperation".

The Soviet minister clarified that until recently there were not any scientific or technical cooperations agreement between Israel and the USSR. "But I do not have any idea about the results of the recent visit of Israeli minister of science to Moscow", he elaborated.

Early today, Gregoriy met with board chairman of Kuwaiti External Oil Exploration (Santa Fe) Company Faysal al-Kathmawi and Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait National Petroleum Company 'Abd al-Razzaq Husayn on lateral cooperation in the oil exploration field.

The minister who was appointed only 6 months ago as geology minister, has worked as college professor and chairman of the Soviet Oil Institute. He has written many books on oil and geology. He arrived here last Monday on an official four-day visit to Kuwait.

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Poland

JN2401170190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman and the Polish People's Republic have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today.

In a joint statement issued today in Muscat and Warsaw, the two countries expressed hope these diplomatic relations will serve to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation to benefit the two countries. Following is the text of the statement:

Inspired by the desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields, the Sultanate of Oman and the Polish People's Republic have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of 24 January 1990. The relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Polish People's Republic will be established according to the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect of sovereignty, and noninterference in the internal affairs of both countries. They also will be established on the bases of equality and mutual benefit according to the provisions of the UN Charter. While the Sultanate of Oman and the Polish People's Republic issue this joint statement, they cherish the hope these diplomatic relations would contribute to developing the ties of friendship and cooperation in the interest of both countries.

PDRY

President Meets Tunisian Emissary; Reviews Issues

EA2501134090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, People's Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Political Bureau member and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has received a letter from his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, on bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries, the results of the Maghreb Union summit, and support for the steps toward unity between the two parts of Yemen.

Brother al-'Attas received the letter this evening in his office at the Presidium when he met with secretariat brother Dr Hamouda Ben Slama, minister of youth and childhood in Tunisia and emissary of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

During the meeting they reviewed the develops in the Arab arena, strengthening the unity of the ranks, and Arab joint work. The brother president of the Supreme People's Council Presidium conveyed to the Tunisian emissary his greetings, thanks, and appreciation to his brother the Tunisian president for the sincere sentiments. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Further Reportage on Salih's Visit to U.S.

Meets With Bush

JN2401200890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 24 Jan (WAKH)—U.S. President George Bush today at the White House met with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], the first YAR president to pay an official visit to the United States.

Talks between the two leaders are expected to deal with the plan recently announced for establishing unity between the two parts of Yemen, U.S.-Yemeni relations, and ways of bolstering economic ties between the two countries.

The Yemeni president arrived early yesterday.

Comments on Visit, Regional Issues

JN2601075690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, attended a breakfast banquet yesterday at Blair House, his residence in Washington, with a number of U.S. journalists, who talked with the brother president about his visit and issues and developments on the Yemeni, Arab, and international scenes. The brother president replied to a number of questions posed by the journalists.

Asked about his assessment of the visit's results, the brother president described the visit as positive and good, that it achieved its anticipated goals. He said: We have reached full understanding with President Bush and the U.S. Administration, be it on bilateral relations, or regional and international issues. The viewpoints were perfectly identical to a great extent on most issues discussed.

Asked about Yemeni unity and timing for its establishment, the brother president explained unity is one of the strategic goals for the Yemeni revolution, which also was aimed at removing imamate rule and establishing a fair republican rule. The brother president reviewed the stages and efforts carried out by the march of unionist action to reunite the Yemeni homeland. He affirmed unity is the embodiment of the unified Yemeni will, which has struggled persistently to achieve this objective, until it culminated in the 30 November 1989 agreement. The brother president said the 30 November agreement excels above others because it was the result of an atmosphere of peaceful democratic dialogue, in contrast with previous agreements, formed in a tense atmosphere between the two parts of Yemen.

The brother president explained to U.S. journalists the 30 November agreement has set a 1-year timetable during which procedures will be completed and the laws, regulations, ministries, and institutions unified by 30 November 1990. He asserted Yemeni unity will be an important factor in achieving security and stability in the entire Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf.

Replying to a question on the fate of the joint agreements between the two parts of Yemen, when they will be implemented, and whether they are considered a factor for achieving unity, the brother president explained all the joint agreements between the two parts actually have materialized, and the recent Aden agreement was an important and positive factor in putting unionist action between the two parts on the right track toward its objectives.

Asked about the estimated profits from the joint project for oil exploitation between the two parts, the president said: The project still is under discussion, exploration, and study of reserve estimates. We are optimistic it will be commercial. It is premature, however, to talk about that. When the results are in after the exploration, we can talk about the estimates.

On whether he discussed Red Sea security issue with Bush, the brother president said this issue was not discussed. It was addressed, however, by both countries' Foreign Ministry officials.

Asked how he views the Arab-Israeli conflict after the Camp David agreement, the brother president said: We spoke yesterday with the U.S. officials and explained to them there neither will be peace nor stability in the region unless the Israeli officials are persuaded to accept international resolutions and recognize the Palestinians' right to have their state established on occupied Arab land. In light of the Israeli Government's intransigence, regional peace will continue to be threatened. We explained it is the right of Palestinian people to live freely on their soil, and the United States, known to be oriented toward human rights, should work to safeguard Palestinian Arab human rights, including their right to live on their land, especially as the Palestinians have put forth many initiatives on establishing peace in the Middle East.

The president said: I wish to ask the U.S. press, which we know is daring and free, this: Why doesn't this press give enough attention to or talk enough about the human rights of the Palestinian Arabs, while it never hesitates to deal with any issue in the world, no matter how insignificant it may appear? Is this due to the Zionist lobby's pressures? I am certain if the U.S. press writes in a humanitarian way about the Palestinian Arab people and the oppression to which they are subjected, it will bring about an important public opinion supporting their rights.

Answering a question about the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and Yemen's role in it, and whether or not the ACC can have a military and political nature, the

president said: The ACC is similar to the other Arab groups, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, and its objectives are declared. It is an economic group, although it is difficult to differentiate between economics and politics because the two are intertwined.

Regarding developments in the socialist bloc and opposition in the Yemen, the president explained: The events in the socialist bloc countries mainly concern these countries. If there is to be any influence on Yemen, it may be limited to the economic aspect, because Yemen used to get facilities from some of these countries. Regarding the opposition, our country has provided that opportunity for everyone within a democratic framework—open to all except members of the Hamid-al-Din dynasty, who hurt the people, plundered their wealth, and practiced all forms of oppression and tyranny. There is no room for them in Yemeni society, especially after the people uprooted them through their revolution and freed themselves from their tyranny. We inside Yemen welcome an opposition whose goals are to build and correct things. We will allow it to participate because it is part of the nationalist regime in the homeland. There is no Yemeni opposition abroad, except for the remnants of the Hamid-al-Din dynasty. Their opposition to the revolution is well known because it ended their dictatorial hegemony on the Yemeni people.

Answering a question on the restoration of Ethiopian-Israeli ties and Yemen's position regarding this issue, he said: So far, we do not have enough information about an Israeli presence in Ethiopia. If an Israeli presence in the Horn of Africa is confirmed, then certainly, this will not help achieve security and stability in the region. Undoubtedly, it would cause concern and distress.

Answering a question on whether or not there are political prisoners in Yemen, the brother leader said: We consistently maintain that since 1983, we have no political prisoners. Amnesty International has the right to visit Yemen, and if it finds any political prisoners, it has the right to release them at once. We also welcome any U.S. journalist wishing to come to Yemen to confirm this or to meet with opposition figures to see the facts for himself.

Regarding ways the opposition can express itself, the brother leader said: Everyone has the right to express himself freely in a peaceful, democratic atmosphere. He said: We have pluralism in Yemen within the framework of a front called the General People's Congress comprised of all political forces, which express themselves freely within a framework. They also express themselves in the democratic elections conducted for the different political frameworks. We also have the al-Shura Council, whose members were democratically and fairly elected by the citizens; through them everyone can express his opinions freely and take part in the march of national action. Under the state of unity, there will be a constitution guaranteeing political pluralism. All forces and figures will have the right to organize themselves politically and express themselves in any way they deem proper within the framework of adhering to the constitution and law.

Salih Concerned Over Israeli Red Sea 'Facilities'

JN2601090590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has declared Israel's acquisition of facilities on some of the Red Sea islands causes anxiety for the region's states if current rumors prove true. He said this constitutes an Israeli threat to Red Sea peace and security, especially if listening and espionage devices have been installed in the region. [passage omitted]

President Salih said this information has not yet been confirmed. He said this issue was dealt with during his discussions with U.S. officials on Red Sea security, and that the two sides exchanged queries on the truth of this information. The Yemeni president said this issue is being studied among the Arab states, full precautions should be observed, and a clear Arab stance adopted if this information proves true. He said: We hope this is not true, because we Arabs are concerned about our relations with neighboring Ethiopia. He said granting facilities to Israel causes discontent in the Arab world. He said Ethiopia affirmed to the Arab states resumption of its relations with Israel will not be at the expense of its Arab relations. [passage omitted]

In remarks to Arab journalists on the results of his talks in Washington, the Yemeni president said he urged the U.S. Administration restore relations with South Yemen preceding unity of the two parts of Yemen. The U.S. side promised soon to restore relations with Aden. [passage omitted]

IDF Patrol Fired on Near Jordanian Border

TA2501182590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol moving along the Jordanian border near Kibbutz Neve Ur heard the report of a shot fired toward it from beyond the Jordan River. The troops returned fire. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht says the soldiers reported in their debriefing they had seen a man approaching the border. Searches in the area revealed nothing.

IDF, SLA Forces Foil 'Terrorist' Attack

TA2601111090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] A terrorist squad this morning attempted an attack in the security zone in southern Lebanon, some 2 km north of Kibbutz Misgav 'Am, UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] Headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Several explosions were heard at around 0800 near the village of al-Tayyibah in southern Lebanon. Soldiers belonging to UNIFIL's Finnish contingent reported a joint IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] unit returned fire, apparently at terrorists who fled.

The squad probably belongs to Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Lebanese radio stations quoted the DFLP's spokesman as saying a terrorist squad on its way to carry out an attack on the northern border was stopped by IDF and SLA units. UNIFIL Headquarters said searches are continuing in the area. No one was wounded in the incident.

U.S. Aid Cut Threats 'Would Backfire'

TA2601095890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Senior Israeli officials rejected statements by an unnamed senior State Department official linking special U.S. aid to Israel for absorbing Soviet immigrants to Israeli concessions in the peace process.

During a visit in Haifa, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres said during a news conference such threats did not "impress" him.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office were angry about the threats, saying any effort to apply such pressure would backfire. "The Americans know very well we can't be pressured," said Yosef Ahime'ir, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's spokesman. [passage omitted]

Peres Says U.S. Warning on Aid 'Unacceptable'

TA2501185390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has rejected the threat by a senior American official to cut U.S. aid to Israel if Israel blocks the peace process. Peres called the U.S. warning an unacceptable threat.

Other responses included one from the Foreign Ministry. A spokesman said there was no need for pressure because Israel has no policy of settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the territories.

The United States meanwhile has withdrawn the threat to link aid for absorbing immigrants to progress in the peace talks. [passage omitted]

'PLO Activist' Recruited Suspected Spies

TA2601075390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The Haifa district attorney has decided to indict Victoria David, suspected of spying for the PLO. Her friend, (Patricia Kalzevitch), will be deported. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has new information on the affair:

The two young women suspected of spying for the PLO, Victoria David and (Patricia Kalzevitch), who converted to Judaism, were recruited in Bucharest, Romania. Victoria David told her interrogators she met a Kuwaiti PLO activist in Bucharest, and he instructed her on her duties. She later denied the remarks, saying the interrogators used pressure on her. Whatever the case, she gave the interrogators the names and details of her operators and contacts in East Europe.

The investigation showed that the two young women, in whose apartment maps and photo negatives were found, transmitted the information they gathered in Israel to Europe in various ways. (Patricia Kalzevitch) flew to Belgrade several times and handed over the material. In one case she flew to Bucharest and met one of her operators. The two disclosed that in other instances, the negatives were sent to Victoria David's mother, who was asked to transmit them to Fatah activists in Yugoslavia. Victoria David admitted in her interrogation she was instructed to photograph military camps and strategic locations. Negatives of photos of Haifa port were confiscated by the police and the Shin Bet. (Patricia Kalzevitch) also admitted to charges against her and raised her eyebrows when she said: I love Israel and the Jews; that is why I wanted to convert. I thought I was doing good.

Police investigators believe (Kalzevitch) is guilty of everything she is suspected of, but that she did not understand the gravity of her actions. The two apparently were not paid for their activities.

The material on (Patricia Kalzevitch's) interrogation was submitted to Attorney General Yosef Harish yesterday and (Kalzevitch) probably will be deported this week from Israel. Charges officially will be pressed against Victoria David on Monday in the Haifa District Court. The district attorney will ask for an extension of her remand until legal proceedings are completed.

Soviet Official on Diplomatic, Aviation Ties

TA2501203990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] A senior Soviet official said despite the flight agreement between El Al and Aeroflot, several political problems remain. The authorization of both governments, therefore, is required before a date for inauguration of the flights is set.

This statement was made by Lev Kuznetsov of the Foreign Relations Administration in the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation. He arrived in Israel this evening as part of a delegation of eight senior Soviet officials who are guests of the Finance Ministry. The delegation will discuss developing commercial and economic relations between the two countries and will prepare Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Moscow.

Lev Kuznetsov said his country is interested in establishing ties with the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. Israeli sources believe the Soviets would like to look into receiving maintenance services from the IAI, even purchasing spare parts for Aeroflot's Boeing airplanes.

7 Soldiers, 14 Reservists Infected With AIDS

TA2601114490 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 26 Jan 90 p 10

[Report by Ahva Kar'el]

[Text] "There still is no AIDS epidemic in Israel, and certainly none in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]," according to Lieutenant Colonel Yehuda Lerman, head of the Army's health department.

The IDF so far has reported seven soldiers infected with the AIDS virus—five conscripts and two in the standing Army. An additional 14 cases were discovered among reserves soldiers.

The IDF already has said in the past any soldier found infected with the AIDS virus immediately will be released from the Army, and his medical profile reduced to 21.

Dr Lerman points out most carrying the AIDS virus develop the disease. "The IDF does not have to suffer the expenses of hospitalization and the medical treatment of a soldier suffering from AIDS, because the illness was not a result of military service."

IDF Cuts To Have 'Marginal Impact' on Training

TA2401133390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 90 p A3

[Report by military affairs correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] The planned budget slash recently devised by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] general staff, involving a cut of 700,000 reserve days next year, has had a merely marginal impact on training IDF soldiers. A senior military source has said according to the new plan, training of the standing forces will not be affected, while training of the reserves only will be minimally impaired.

The scope of 1990-91 reserves units training will be similar to that of 1989-90. It will include most of the IDF's field units.

This assessment of the impact of the budget cuts on IDF training greatly contradicts the grave pronouncements and warnings voiced by IDF commanders in the past weeks.

Savings in reserves service—which accounts for a large part of the defense budget—will be achieved mainly through a decrease in the number of reserves units deployed next year against the intifadah. Another source of planned savings is the significant slash in recruitment of administration and services soldiers in every part of the IDF's reserves.

The decrease in the number of reservists in the territories was possible through establishment of special standing army territories units. In addition, considering the high number of new recruits in 1989, the IDF has increased the number of standing Army soldiers in the combat layout, manning empty slots.

The growth of the Army's standing forces has not been achieved through an enlargement of unit size or weapons, but rather by adding trained soldiers to existing units.

Another factor that helped cut down the number of reserve soldiers deployed in the territories is the proficiency IDF soldiers have acquired in dealing with the territories situation. This proficiency is reflected in the troops' capabilities, the many means at the IDF's disposal in the territories, and in the troops' familiarity with the terrain and the population in various parts. The senior military sources stated although the intifadah has exacted a price from the IDF's combat capability, the Army has found "a reasonable balance" between training and activity in the territories.

Man Kidnapped, Murdered for 'Collaboration'

TA2501142590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The body discovered today in Zabdah in Samaria was that of 23-year-old Muhammad Ibrahim Hamarsah from Ya'bad. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports

masked men kidnapped the man yesterday afternoon from his home; his torched car was found afterward. Local residents claimed the murder was for suspected collaboration with the authorities.

Officer Says Soldiers Mix Plastic, Live Bullets

TA1501125290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] The commander of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] battalion that has operated in several West Bank towns testified yesterday in Jerusalem District Court that some soldiers insert live bullets into magazines that should contain only plastic bullets.

The reserves commander, Maj. Shay Talmon, was testifying on behalf of the prosecution at the manslaughter trial of Gush Emunim leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger.

Asked by defence attorney David Rotem whether he had seen magazines with a mixture of live and plastic bullets, Talmon told Judge Shalom Brenner, "I've seen such things. It's in violation of orders. It's improper."

However, he did not say what he or other commanders did in these cases, as the question was not put to him in the open session.

Levinger's second attorney Ya'aqov Nehushtan planned to raise the matter in the cross-examination of a senior officer in the Judaea Brigade, but Judge Brenner closed the session to the public before the matter was raised.

The IDF spokesman's office denied knowledge of such phenomena.

Plastic bullets were introduced in July 1988 and IDF officers have maintained that when fired from a distance of 70 metres or more they are not lethal. The army's rules of engagement therefore authorized use of plastic bullets from that distance, even when soldiers' lives were not in danger.

Last February, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wrote to MK Amnon Rubinstein that "these bullets may be used when our soldiers are in a life-threatening situation—but that is not a precondition."

In fact 125 Palestinians were killed "by plastic bullets" between July 20, 1988 and January 8, 1990, the IDF spokesman's office reported.

The possibility of firing live bullets, even while seeming to fire plastic, may be one reason why the number of fatalities did not drop since plastic bullets were introduced. During the intifada's first year 270 Palestinians were killed, but during the intifada's second year at least 285 people were fatally shot, according to Betzelem, the human rights monitoring group. [passage omitted]

2 Soldiers Wounded in Gaza; 7 Houses Demolished

TA2501082590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Two soldiers were lightly injured when they were hit by stones in Rafah. A Voice of Israel reporter says there were disturbances yesterday in Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. The Army used tear gas to disperse a crowd of youths, and residents say four of them were wounded.

The Army last night demolished the house of a Qalqilyah resident suspected of participating in the murder of three people who allegedly cooperated with Israeli authorities. The man was detained some time ago. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 25 January adds: "Last night, the forces demolished seven houses in the territories. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Khan Yunus, the forces demolished the homes of several members of a squad that operated in the framework of strike committees activated by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The squad members are suspected of planning and executing the assassination of Arabs who were thought to be collaborating with Israel of assaulting three other Arab residents."]

Mudar Badran on Border Incidents, Other Issues

JN2501191290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Mudar Badran by Randah Habib, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Mr Prime Minister, infiltration operations and incidents across the cease-fire line between Jordan and Israel have recently increased. What are the reasons for this, and what party is responsible?

[Badran] If we carefully study the issue of the infiltrations, we find that there are not many such operations. I can say that Israel is the one that is blowing this issue out of proportion. Let us take last year for example. I have the necessary statistics. We will find that the incidents across the cease-fire line were not more than 10 comprising infiltrations and shooting incidents, and two instances involving rockets. This is what took place in one whole year. Reports about shooting incidents are, in reality, shooting incidents from the Israeli side. There was absolutely no shooting from Jordan's side. This also applies to the incident just before the last one during which two civilians who were fishing in the Jordan River were fired upon. Western media reported that fire was opened from the East Bank. The truth is that in these two incidents, there was no fire from the East Bank. The shooting came from the Israeli side, the latest being the shooting reported in Wadi al-'Arabah. Therefore, the media's blowing out of proportion of these shootings, in my opinion, is fabricated and not real; Jordan is determined to control the cease-fire line. The world at large knows this.

[Habib] Mr Prime Minister, will you discuss the question of the infiltrations with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi during his visit to Amman next Monday?

[Badran] Infiltrations do not take place only from Syrian borders. They are taking place on all Jordanian borders. Infiltration operations may take place on the borders between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as is the case between us and Syria. The nature of things is that these type of operations take place on all borders. Infiltration operations between Jordan and Syria totaled only 83 in 1989. These infiltration operations range from tobacco to narcotics and goods contraband, as well as the smuggling of rockets. Jordan is alert to this problem. In case such operations increase beyond the normal level, the usual thing to do is to discuss this with our brothers. If such infiltrations are of a security nature, then we must discuss this with the Arab countries, including Syria.

[Habib] While Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union grows, Israeli officials repeat their talk that Jordan is the homeland of the Palestinians.

[Badran] Jordan is Jordan. Jordan is the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is an independent and sovereign country, and is recognized as such throughout the world. Any such talk is a spurious argument. I hear such a tune from time to time. Some Israeli leaders say this. We can reply by saying that facts show that Israel is the homeland of the Palestinians.

The Palestinians were expelled by force as a result of war. International efforts to achieve peace are designed to safeguard Palestinians rights and regain the territories usurped during the war. Resolution No. 242 stipulates the nonacquisition of other people's land by force. Whom do the words "other people's" refer to, and who used the force? The UN Security Council states that Israel used force and occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. Therefore, any peace process should be based on the principle of peace for land. This land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is for the Palestinians. Jordan has never been a Palestinian land, but a Jordanian land. This talk conflicts with facts and reflects fascist, expansionist Israeli views.

[Habib] Mr Prime Minister, some circles believe that the government has made concessions to the Islamic trend to safeguard the march of democracy. However, others believe that these concessions will restrict citizens' freedom. What is your reply to this?

[Badran] I do not like to interpret what the government has done as concessions. In fact, this is the application of the Constitution and the laws. Public liberties, the freedom of expression, the freedom of press, the freedom of movement, and the freedom of work, are all included in the Constitution. If there were violations in the past—including the emergency laws—dictated by circumstances, we say that there were such violations, and then the course of things went back to normal. The second article in our constitution notes that Islam is the religion of the state, and that Jordan is also part of the Arab homeland. If we say that our actions must be in accordance with Islamic law, as I said in the policy statement, then I also say that this had been observed in Jordan in the past. Civil law, which is public law, provided that basic law is the civil law—as known to all jurists—is derived from Islamic law. The family status law is also based on Islamic law. If what is meant by this is the law that prohibits the serving of liquor at public institutions or official functions, I say that this law also existed during the former prime minister's era. With this, we do not encroach on any other citizen's freedom, but we organize ourselves and apply the law. If some circles believe that this is a violation, then I would like to correct this by saying that this is in harmony with the Constitution and the observed laws. Thank you.

Badran: Border Security 'Shared by Both Sides'

JN2601110490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 90 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Amman (AFP)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran yesterday asserted that Jordan is "earnestly interested in calming down the cease-fire line with Israel and exerts utmost efforts to prevent the occurrence of

any incidents on this line." He indicated that he believes that "such incidents harm Jordan and the Arab nation."

In an exclusive interview with AFP, the first of its kind with the world press after taking office on 6 December 1989, Badran said that "only 10 shooting and infiltration incidents, and two other incidents involving the firing of rockets, took place along the line of confrontation with the enemy" in 1989.

He said not all infiltration incidents originated in Syria, indicating that "this issue can be discussed" with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who is scheduled to arrive in Amman next Monday. Badran affirmed that Jordan "feels that Syria is concerned about Jordan's security as much as Jordan is concerned about Syria's security, because this is a joint front against Israel."

However, he explained that "some factions, which are not Syrian of course, infiltrated the long border between us and Syria, and then infiltrated into Israel." He also explained that "a soldier may get out of control as a result of psychological pressure or for personal reasons, and matters should not be judged based on individual cases."

The prime minister believes that the infiltration incidents with Israel do not mean that "there is laxity on the part of Jordan," and that "it is not possible to control matters 100 percent in this regard." He maintained that responsibility is "shared by both sides since the infiltrators manage to infiltrate the enemy electronic lines without being stopped."

On the other hand, Badran said that "whoever in Israel says that Jordan is Palestine is crazy, and the answer is that Israel has been Palestine throughout history and during the (British) mandate." He considered such allegations as "made by those who do not want peace and do not want this region to calm down."

Within the same framework, Badran criticized the Jewish immigration to the Hebrew state from the Soviet Union and the East European states. He said that "undoubtedly, this current intensive immigration which is taking place under false slogans is very worrisome to us." He wondered if "they claim that it is for the sake of human rights, what about the Palestinian people's human rights in the West Bank and Gaza, and those displaced throughout the globe; do they not have rights too?"

The prime minister denied that the success achieved by the Muslim Brotherhood group in the Jordanian Parliament will affect "relations with Syria, because their success has been determined by a popular will through free, democratic elections." He said, "I did not notice or feel that their success had any impact on Jordanian-Syrian relations."

On the democratic experience and how it will affect neighboring Arab countries, Badran affirmed that "this experience is for Jordan and took place in Jordan, and we are not considering the exportation of any internal experience to any Arab country." He asserted that "every country has its peculiarities, and Jordan has nothing to do with any internal affair of any other Arab country. Likewise, no other country has anything to do with any of our internal affairs."

Regarding the status of the inhabitants of the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Badran considered that all Palestinians, "inhabitants of the refugee camps or elsewhere, bear the Jordanian citizenship and have the same rights and duties specified by the Constitution." Nonetheless, he stated that "their right to self-determination when the Palestine question is resolved is preserved. The option is theirs, and nobody can strip any Palestinian of his Palestinian identity, whether in Jordan or abroad." [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi To End Rebellion With 'Legal' Forces

NC2401230990 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Beirut, Jan 24 (AFP)—President Ilyas al-Hirawi met Wednesday with his defense minister, army chief and the head of the police force to seek ways of extending his authority over the country, political sources said.

The meeting came one day after his return home from a three-day visit to Damascus where he discussed with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad ways to deal with embattled Christian military leader Michel 'Awn, with the military option high on their agenda.

Mr. al-Asad said Tuesday in Damascus that he would offer Syrian military help to Mr. al-Hirawi if he asked for it.

But a military source close to Mr. al-Hirawi told Agence France-Presse that the Lebanese president had "decided to use only legal Lebanese forces to put an end to General 'Awn's rebellion."

Mr. al-Hirawi, Defense Minister Albert Mansur, Chief of Staff General Emile Lahhud and the head of the Internal Security Forces General 'Umar Makhzumi discussed a security plan to "extend, in a first stage, the legal authority in the capital in coordination with and the support of the Syrian Armed Forces," an official said.

Mr. al-Hirawi's initial concern is to extend his authority over territory east and north of Beirut controlled by Gen. 'Awn and the 15,000 army troops that the Christian leader commands from his bunker at the presidential palace of B'abda.

Informed sources said Gen. Lahhud was soon expected to visit Damascus to put the finishing touches to the al-Hirawi administration's security plan.

Western diplomatic sources said meanwhile that 'Ali al-Khalil, a finance minister in the al-Hirawi administration, returned home Tuesday after a tour to France and the United States to seek military hardware.

Mr. al-Khalil reportedly offered to pay for the weapons with bank assets that Gen. 'Awn has under his name in both countries.

Gen. 'Awn, who heads a transitional government since September 1988, does not recognise the legitimacy of Mr. al-Hirawi, charging that his election in November was orchestrated by Syria which maintains some 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

The embattled leader has also refused to accept the Arab peace plan for Lebanon—under which Mr. al-Hirawi was elected—for its failure to call for a definite withdrawal of Syrian troops.

W. Beirut Security Plan Detailed

NC2601074690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] The government of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is currently endeavoring to translate the security segment of the agreement worked out during the recent Damascus summit between Mr Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad into a security plan for West Beirut. According to the plan, troops of the Lebanese Army and security forces will deploy on the airport road, inside the airport, and on the road from Khaldah to Beirut. The deployment will also involve the contact lines in the city center.

An official source in West Beirut has said that the security plan will be implemented soon. However, he added, the extension of the plan to the Southern Suburb will still be contingent on the outcome of international and regional consultations and exchanges. The same source went on to say that the security plan will commence with the collection of arms, the closure of armed offices, and the prevention of any show of force. Meanwhile, the army and security forces troops will set up fixed and mobile checkpoints and will institute patrols on streets and highways. Furthermore, the security plan stipulates that the Syrian forces will be assembled outside Beirut.

Citing a highly-placed source, AFP reports that army and gendarmerie troops will gradually deploy in West Beirut, on its southern and eastern approaches, and at Beirut International Airport in coordination with the Syrian Army. The source, according to AFP, added that the Syrian forces will assemble in yet unidentified points. The source pointed out that this plan will be applied simultaneously with the disarmament of the militias.

[The (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon at 0630 GMT on 26 January adds: "Reports indicate that Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian intelligence apparatus in Lebanon, have arrived in Lebanon to discuss the security plan for West Beirut."]

Birri, Junblatt To Withdraw Militias

NC2601075490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt have pledged to withdraw the gunmen of the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement from the area covered by the security plan.

Government sources have stated that an agreement has been reached to completely withdraw gunmen of various affiliations from the contact lines in West Beirut and hand over the area to the Lebanese Army.

Damascus Talks Summed up

NC2501095090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Well-informed Lebanese sources have summarized the outcome of the Damascus summit as follows:

1. The Lebanese Government is to prepare a plan to end the existing mutiny.

2. A security plan is to be drawn up for West Beirut. Meetings are to be held separately among Lebanese and Syrian officials to prepare for such a plan. These will be followed by joint meetings to examine the implementation of the plan.

3. Arms are to be provided for the Lebanese Army and any new brigades that will be established.

4. Any persons attempting to enter Lebanon illegally are to be stopped at the borders.

5. The situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah is to be tackled in cooperation between the Lebanese and Syrian sides and in such a way as to lead to the lawful authorities' assumption of security duties.

Iraqi Diplomat Says Arms Shipments Halted

NC2601084890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Plenipotentiary Sabah Tal'at Qadra, deputy head of the Iraqi diplomatic mission to the United Nations, has emphasized that Iraq has suspended the dispatch of arms to Lebanon. He added that his country's stand on the need to withdraw all foreign troops, including the Syrian Army, from Lebanon has not changed.

DFLP-Israeli Battle Rages in South

NC2601131590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] For more than 7 hours the fighters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have been locked in a heroic confrontation with the occupation forces and their militiamen in Wadi al-Hujayr near al-Tayyibah in the occupied strip area. The DFLP fighters have inflicted several human losses on the ranks of the enemy; six dead and wounded have been counted so far.

According to an initial communique by a DFLP military spokesman, the confrontation began when the martyr Staff Lieutenant Colonel Abu al-Lutf group of the Intifadah martyrs unit ambushed an enemy mechanized patrol headed by 6 infantry soldiers. The group attacked the patrol on the road between the project area [mintaqat al-mashru'] and the al-Tayyibah township near Misgav 'Am, using antiarmor missiles, machineguns, and hand grenades. They scored direct hits and annihilated the entire patrol.

In a second communique, the DFLP military spokesman said that the occupation forces brought large reinforcements and vehicles to the area where a violent confrontation took place between the resistance group and the enemy's forces. A DFLP military source confirmed a short while ago that the confrontation is continuing in the Wadi al-Hujayr area. He said that the enemy's forces are still pursuing the resistance men and are directing violent artillery fire at the area in an attempt to surround the group.

The DFLP military spokesman confirmed in a third communique that the Israeli patrol sustained nine dead and wounded and that an APC [armored personnel carrier] was destroyed. The statement added that the Israeli Army radio carried a report in Hebrew at 1100 on this operation saying that senior officers from the staff command arrived immediately in the area to supervise the pursuit and raking operation. The radio did not refer to the casualties, although, the communique adds, it carried a second report to the effect that there were six casualties among Israeli soldiers as a result of an accident involving two cars.

In its statements, the DFLP explains that this operation is in implementation of the decisions of the front and the instructions of the PLO Central Council, and is a retaliation for the Israeli attacks on the positions of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national and Islamic forces, as a support for the popular uprising in the occupied territories, and as a rejection of all the suspicious plans which are hatched against the rights of the Palestinian people.

The DFLP reiterated its pledge to back the intifadah and step up the armed struggle. It sent greetings to the resistance group's heroes who have scored a victory over the enemy.

The enemy radio reported the heroic confrontation and quoted the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon command as saying that the confrontation is continuing. As usual, the radio claimed that there were no casualties.

Palestinian Group Claims Attack on Israeli Targets

NC2601092890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 JAN 90

[Text] A group of fighters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine attacked an Israeli mechanized patrol on the project area road [tariq mintaqat al-mashru'] in the occupied strip at dawn today. A military spokesman for the front said that group of martyr Staff Colonel Abu-al-Lutf of the Intifadah unit proceeded at dawn today to carry out the Gaza martyrs operation by attacking specific Zionist targets near Misqav 'Am settlement in the Galilee panhandle.

Shiite Fighting Persists in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2601064490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Clashes involving the use of artillery and rockets are currently raging between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines. Both sides have brought reinforcements to the area.

As part of the efforts to resolve the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, Algerian National Liberation Front member Mohamed Taher visited the Palestinian disengagement positions in the area. He also met with ranking Amal and Hizballah officials in Beirut in a bid to end the fighting between the two sides.

East Beirut Papers To Resume Publication 26 Jan

NC2501190690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon radio and Radio Free Lebanon resumed broadcasting news bulletins this morning and partially adhered to the measures adopted by rebel officer Michel 'Awn concerning the titles of officials.

The newspapers AL-DIYAR and AL-BAYRAQ, as well as the AL-AKHBAR AL-YAWM NEWS AGENCY, are expected to resume normal publication [in East Beirut] tomorrow in accordance with the compromise formula reached yesterday with General Michel 'Awn, who clearly backtracked on his instructions concerning the titles of officials but kept the door open for new attempts at intervention in media affairs.

Meanwhile, the distribution of all West Beirut papers, including AL-NAHAR, is still banned in the Eastern Area, with the exception of the French-language newspaper L'ORIENT LE JOUR.

Bias in Treatment of Azerbaijan Noted

NC2201095890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon GMT 90

[Political commentary: "The Two Faces of Perestroyka"]

[Excerpts] Anyone following the news from Azerbaijan and the reactions and misleading media reports about the situation there will find himself saddened and depressed. The gloom is only lightened by God's promise of a great victory, the inheritance of the earth, and the establishment of an era of justice to follow the age of injustice. Anyone following the news from Azerbaijan, Palestine, and southern Lebanon finds himself lost in a sea of tears and can only be cheered by the promised reappearance of Imam al-Mahdi, may God hasten his relief. His memory is revived and his way illuminated only by the words of Imam Khomeyni, may he be blessed. The East and the West are both enemies and conspirators. The worst aspect of the conspiracy is its media front. The unity of Muslims is a factor of strength and their dispersal is the prelude to death and destruction. America is an archsatan. Russia is also an archsatan unless it revises its calculations and escapes from the trap of the capitalist embrace of America and the West.

He who follows the news from Azerbaijan perceives a terrible contrast and discovers the clear bias and East-West collusion against the interests of Islam and the Muslims. [passage omitted]

He who follows the news from Muslim Azerbaijan these days finds himself drowning in sorrow and is moved to write an elegy, rather than a political analysis or comment of the kind that can be heard all over the world of the oppressed. The republic of Azerbaijan was separated from its Muslim Iranian sister republic by an arrogant decree by Stalin, Roosevelt, and the other victors of World War II. The fence that separates Soviet Azerbaijan and Iranian Azarbayjan is less cruel and weaker than the Berlin Wall. The difference is that the world is applauding the fall of the Berlin Wall but refuses to remove the Azerbaijan fence. This is the clear and tragic difference: There are no impartial witnesses.

In the Lithuanian republic, the banners of secession are raised and Gorbachev is confronted with the shouts of those advocating independence. The master of perestroyka, however, smiles and promises a peaceful solution. In Azerbaijan the Red Army is on top alert and the images of Stalinist repression appear more appropriate.

Nothing equals the Soviet crime that is taking place under the aegis of alleged perestroyka and glasnost except the applause from the organs of the West of a notorious massacre against the Muslim Azeris. Indeed, the Eastern and Western media seek to deny the nature of the intifadah in Azerbaijan by using such terms as nationalists and Azeri Muslims, even when these people raise portraits of Imam Khomeyni and storm the borders on their way to the Islamic Republic and Turkey in search of a mosque, a shrine, and a grain of earth from the house of the Prophet.

Those who deny the identity of the Azeris are the same people who deny the identity of the Palestinian intifadah and the Lebanese Islamic resistance. They are the same who refused to regard Imam Khomeyni as the man of the 1980's. They have imposed a blackout on every Islamic activity anywhere in the world. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that his light should be perfected. [Koranic verse] We know this because the venerable Koran speaks to us of it. Nevertheless, we sorrowfully mourn the death of the world's conscience. The perfection of God's light is a truth that will not be late in coming although it requires us to do our duty and needs the efforts of the entire nation. Patience Muslims, your appointment is in heaven and your promise is victory even if it takes a long time.

Afghanistan

Supplies From Pakistan Ease Food Shortages

BK2401121190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 24 Jan 90

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Qandahar, Afghanistan, Jan 24 (AFP)—Food from Pakistan, one of the main supporters of the Afghan resistance, is helping the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah survive its first winter without Red Army troops.

Here in Afghanistan's largest southern city, 140 kilometers (85 miles) from the nearest border point, traditional traders, many driving Pakistani registered trucks, bring rice, tea and sugar, while taking out dried fruit, prized Afghan almonds, cashew nuts and smuggled goods.

A lion's share of the food finds its way north to Kabul in private trucks, taxed but not stopped by the mujahidin, and not all the country can benefit.

United Nations relief personnel in Kabul say in the far northeast and northwest of the country cases of starvation have been registered. In the northwest, hit by a locust plague during last year's harvest season, whole villages are reportedly on the move in search of food. But for the rest of the country, the opening of the "southern route" some two months ago has brought market prices down and eased the government's dependence on the Soviet air bridge.

"Our best friends", jokes Colonel Azim Ushmand, provincial political officer from neighbouring Helmand Province, pointing to the Pakistani trucks bouncing across the shell-pocked dirt road from the border. A grinning trader in the [word indistinct] market says he sells Pepsi from the Pakistani city of Quetta at 100 afghanis (20 cents) a bottle and sends the empties back across the border where they fetch 2,000 afghanis (four dollars) a case.

The trade is two-way. Qandahar's farmers, many of whom return seasonally from refugee camps in Pakistan to harvest grapes, pomegranates, almonds, cashews and pistachios, say they get double the price in Pakistan for their produce. For Qandahar, now a sorry city with the wounds of 10 years war showing on almost every building, resumption of trade after months of blockade is a boon.

Qandahar Province Governor Major General Nurul Haq 'Ulumi estimates the city's population has quadrupled to 200,000 over the past year and that agricultural output has expanded proportionately.

His junior officers believe "it will be a matter of time" before cross-border tribal trade resumes on roads closer to Kabul, where the population has traditionally depended on rice and vegetables from Pakistan to get through the bitter Afghan winter. The officers give various, and often vague, explanations as to why the southern route is open and the border open. Most simply say: "The people on both sides want it, it is their livelihood." But one of the keys seems to be a relaxed government attitude towards private truck owners and operators, whose vehicles can pass through areas where government trucks would be ambushed and looted.

At a ministerial meeting in Kabul last week, a government spokesman said authorities had been criticised for not paying enough attention to the private transport sector, but that the situation was being remedied.

The increased use of private trucks is evident all over the country including Kabul, where one branch of the key road linking the Soviet border to the capital is known as the "Muj Road" and the other as "Government Road". On any afternoon, government troops sitting in bunkers at the entrance of the "Muj Road" to the northern edge of the city watch the trucks rolling past. "There are some interruptions in traffic, some ambushes, but most of the time they come through with no problem," said a young lieutenant. "They pay a lot—10,000 afghanis (10 dollars) for a large truck, 5,000 afghanis (five dollars) for a small, and 10 afghanis (two cents) [all figures as received] for every bus passenger in taxes to the various Muj groups down the road, but they get through."

On the Government Road, used to bring munitions, weaponry and gasoline, the trucks travel in armed convoys. And to the city's east, private truckers gather at night to run the gauntlet of mujahidin-infested and often icy gorges to the city of Jalalabad. They have their agreements, which involve running the city roads without lights, but most get through at a price.

Surface-to-Surface Missiles Acquired Near Kabul

LD2601070390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 25, BAKHTAR—The security organs of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Afghanistan today disclosed eleven kgs explosives of Trotile type which were placed by the sold-out extremists elements near a consumer goods store in Khair Khana Mena [placename as received], of Kabul city for killing our innocent people and disturbing the calm life of our compatriots in the said area.

Besides the said organs have bought today four ground to ground Strella-2 type rockets from a commander of armed extremists at the outskirts of Kabul.

BAKHTAR Details 17-24 Jan Military Operations

LD2501094790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 24, BAKHTAR—During the span of January 17-24, 1990 around 602 extremists were killed and hundred others wounded as a result of the mopping up operations carried out by the contingents and detachment of the armed forces in Kabul, Paktia, Nangarhar,

and Laghman Provinces and in the Khowst Grand District. Twenty six enemies were captured by the armed forces in that period as well. Six servicemen including 3 civilians were killed and 11 others wounded.

The extremists supported by Pakistan, US and the Saudii Wahhabis launched 2 ground to ground rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city. No one was killed or wounded. Remarkable material losses were inflicted on private properties.

From the very beginning of armed clashes among extremist rival groups upto now, 10,000 extremists have been killed.

Reports reached BAKHTAR say that 348 refugees who were living in Iran returned home and started their normal lives in their homes and villages in Herat and Badghis Provinces in the last week.

Becoming aware of the national reconciliation policy 598 people joined it in the Balkh, Faryab and Takhar Provinces.

Also, thirty two kilogrammes of heroin which was imported from Pakistan to Kabul was discovered and seized by the security forces of the country.

A concerned military source said to a BAKHTAR reporter that 892 demobbed soldiers voluntarily rejoined ranks of the armed forces and pledged to continue their services in the army until complete peace and security restored in the country.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy, including several US Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 rockets, fell at the hand of the armed forces during the week as well.

Notes number 1054-1069 f the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on Pakistani violations from the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) during the week.

India

Yaqub Khan Remarks on Kashmir Termed 'Ultimatum'

BK2501160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1543 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] India has made it clear to Pakistan that under no circumstances secessionist movements will be allowed to succeed in the country. The external affairs minister, Mr Gujral, told the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during his recent visit to New Delhi that when it comes to defending the unity of the country, entire India will stand as one.

At a periodic meeting with heads of Arab missions, Mr Gujral informed them that the message left behind by Mr Yaqub Khan was not of peace and, in fact, was disconcerting. The problem in Kashmir, he said, is not a religious one, but social and economic in nature, compounded by outside interference. Mr Gujral underlined the composite character of the Indian identity and the contribution of Islam to it.

Reacting to statements made by certain quarters in Pakistan, Iran, and Bangladesh on the situation in Kashmir, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman described these as spate of disinformation.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in New Delhi have expressed amazement over the Pakistani foreign minister's extremely harsh, provocative, and strident remarks made during his recent talks with the Indian leaders. Describing his statements as uncharacteristically tough, the sources add that this amounted to an ultimatum. He spoke about inflamed passions in Pakistan, perilous consequences, and also about the possibility of another 1965 [war on Kashmir].

Mr Yaqub Khan is reported to have told confrontationists in his country to go in for an armed conflict with India.

The Indian side pointed out that while chauvinists in India have also been calling for an extreme approach, it feels that the two governments must ensure that the situation does not go out of hand.

Diplomatic sources learned that Pakistan may raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations in a short time as part of its ongoing strategy. They observed that by raising the Kashmir bogey, Pakistan is desperately trying to externalize its internal crisis of power (?struggle).

Foreign Ministry 'Shocked' by Iranian Decision

BK2601072090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 26 (AFP)—Iran has called off a visit by India's External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, ostensibly to protest New Delhi's attempt to put down Muslim militancy in Kashmir state, a newspaper reported Friday [26 January].

THE TIMES OF INDIA said Tehran's decision had shocked the Indian Foreign Ministry, which was viewing it as the start of an orchestrated campaign against New Delhi by the Islamic world over Kashmir.

Iranian diplomats and Indian officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

The front-page report contradicted an official announcement here Thursday that Mr. Gujral's five-day trip to Tehran to begin Monday had been put off due to the postponment of an Indian-Iran joint ministerial commission meeting.

An official spokesman had added that the postponement followed Iran's preoccupation with preparations for the anniversary of the Islamic revolution and the announcment of state assembly elections in India next month.

THE TIMES, however, said: "The Iranian decision is seen here as a demonstration of its critical stand on the current developments in Kashmir. Of late Iran has taken an extremely partisan view on the developments."

Muslim militants are fighting violently for independence in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, situated in the extreme north and bordering Pakistan and China.

India says that the campaign, which has unofficially left more than 100 people dead this year, is supported by neighbouring Pakistan which disputes Kashmir. The two countries have fought two of their three wars since their independence in 1947 over Kashmir.

Most deaths have been reported during clashes between security forces and Muslim separatists and their supporters in Srinagar, the summer capital of the state.

THE TIMES said Iran had recently "almost supported the secessionists in Kashmir" and also spoken about the plight of Indian Muslims, who total some 100 million and are the largest religious minority in Hindu-majority India.

The English-language newspaper said that Iran's decision to call off Mr. Gujral's visit was being seen by New Delhi as "the beginning of an orchestrated campaign in the Islamic world" over Kashmir.

"The Iranian affront can be said to be only the beginning of a larger confrontation between India and some of the front-ranking Islamic states," the daily said.

THE TIMES added that Mr. Gujral, in an apparent move to blunt Tehran's move, had explained New Delhi's stand to Arab diplomats here, besides detailing India's traditional support for the cause of the Palestinians.

Iran also condemend in November what it said were "atrocities" against Muslims in India, after fundamentalist Hindus went on a rampage in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, killing hundreds of Muslims.

Mauritius To Demand No UK Claim on Diego Garcia

BK2601040590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Mauritius is to demand an undertaking from the United Kingdom that it would not stake any claim over Diego Garcia when the leasing out of the island to the United States expires in 2010. Mauritius Prime Minister Mr Aneerood Jugnauth expressed the hope that the island group, which has now been turned into an American military base, will be restored to his country soon, as the cold war between East and West is likely to end. Addressing newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, he reiterated the call for an United Nations conference to declare Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

Singh Wants Diego Garcia Returned to Mauritius

BK2601081490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that India looks forward to an easing of power rivalry in the Indian Ocean when the world is witnessing an era of historic changes. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the Mauritius prime minister, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, Mr V.P. Singh said the great powers are in the process of defining new relationships and have formally closed the chapter of cold war. This has led to an overall reduction of tension and facilitated resolution of regional conflicts.

Referring to the winds of change restructuring the political landscape, Mr Singh said the nonaligned countries seeking to obtain a more favorable international economic environment must assess these changes and their impact on them.

On South Africa, Mr Singh called for continued pressure on the Pretoria regime. The prime minister expressed concern at the trampling of national rights of the Indian community in Fiji and at the attempt to impose a racially discriminatory constitution on them. He hoped that all segments of the society will work for a genuine dialogue among themselves to ensure stability and racial harmony in the island republic.

Referring to India-Mauritius relations, Mr Singh reiterated India's support to the Mauritius demand that the Chagos archipelago, including Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, be restored to it. He also help to Mauritius in expanding cooperation covering cultural exchange programs, radio, astronomy, and oceanography.

USSR, PRC Leaders Send Republic Day Greetings

BK2601043690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] A number of heads of state and government have sent message of greetings on the occasion of Republic Day.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, in a message to the president and the prime minister, expressed confidence that time-tested relations between the Soviet Union and India will be further strengthened.

The U.S. President, George Bush, in his message said the people of the two countries share many ideals including democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights.

Queen Elizabeth of Britain and Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher have expressed the hope that the coming years will bring new strength and prosperity to India.

The Chinese president, Mr Yang Shangkun, has said the continuous improvement in Sino-Indian relations will be further strengthened on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Pakistan president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto have expressed their country's desire to establish good neighborly, tension-free, and cooperative ties with India.

Paper Urges Government Action on Fiji Situation

BK1301123090 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Rabuka's Paranoia"]

[Text] There is nothing surprising in Fiji's military strongman, Sitiveni Rabuka, calling India the "potential enemy" which might intervene in Fiji. He is the one who is largely responsible for reducing the ethnic Indian majority in Fiji into second class citizens and for persecuting them. In his paranoia he sees India's naval expansion as aimed at Fiji and would like to open its doors to Chinese immigrants to balance the ethnic Indians' growing numbers. Then a colonel, Rabuka toppled in May 1987 Dr Timoci Bavadra's coalition Government composed of the Fiji Labour Party and the Indian-dominated National Federation. His actions, including a second coup in October 1987, have amounted to governing the country with the help of the defeated Alliance Party run by Fijian chieftains. Though the election was won more on class lines, Rabuka has portrayed himself as a saviour of the native Melanesians-Polynesians against ethnic Indian domination. The draft constitution he gave the country seeks to perpetuate the former's political paramountcy despite the fact that the ethnic Indians outnumber them.

The situation has become so bad that there are reports that ethnic Indians are thinking of organising guerilla groups to fight the persecution. Whatever the truth of this report, there is no doubt that the Indians, who have contributed much to the country's economy, are the victims of what amounts to apartheid. The world unfortunately has turned a blind eye to the trampling of human rights in Fiji. France has even engaged itself in actively helping Fiji to build up its armed forces. Obviously, India cannot pretend to ignore what is happening to the people of Indian origin in Fiji, although it may be debatable as to what New Delhi can do in the matter. India's blue waters capability may have led Rabuka, who, as a military officer, once did a course at Wellington in Madras, to imagine that New Delhi would send an armada to Fiji a la Britain's expedition to the Falklands. But that would be so worthless an exercise as need not be considered seriously. However, what India must do to save the Indians of Fiji is utilise the Commonwealth forum to force Rabuka to let them enjoy normal human rights that countries like Britain and Australia champion for people elsewhere. That New Delhi has failed to do anything in the matter shows that it does not have a clear policy for overseas Indians.

Delhi TV Carries Republic Day Ceremonies, Parade

BK2601071590

[Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English/Hindi at 0355 GMT on 26 January begins a live relay of the ceremony held at the Martyrs Memorial at India Gate in New Delhi, during which Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is to lead the nation in paying homage at the immortal soldiers monument, and a parade at Rajpath in New Delhi to mark the 40th anniversary of the Indian Republic.

At 0356 GMT, announcer Jasdev Singh, speaking in Hindi, greets the people of the country on the occasion of Republic Day and describes programs to be held this morning. Another announcer, Mrs G.B. Komal Singh, speaking in English, reviews achievements of India in the socioeconomic, technical, and defense fields during the past 40 years. The third announcer, speaking in English from the parade, venue says: "Here, the saluting base is the focal point of the parade, and perhaps more than 10,000 personnel of the Armed Forces, paramilitary units, police, NCC [National Cadet Corps], school children, folk dancers, and other voluntary organizations will march past the president, who will be here not only in his capacity as the head of the republic but as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces."

At 0410 GMT, Prime Minister V.P. Singh arrives at the Martyrs Memorial at India Gate and is received by Defense Secretary Naresh Chandra and three services chiefs. He then lays a wreath at the monument of immortal soldiers and stands in silence for 1 minute, leading the entire nation in paying homage to the martyrs. The video then shows the prime minister driving in a motorcade toward the parade venue and arriving at the saluting base at 0419 GMT and being received by the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna. He is then introduced to three services chiefs and others, including the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and foreign dignitaries present in the VIP enclosure.

Vice President S.D. Sharma arrives at the saluting base at 0424 GMT, when the announcer says: "We are also awaiting the arrival with the president of Anerood Jugnauth, the prime minister of Mauritius, who is the chief guest for today's celebrations." President R. Venkataraman, accompanied by the Mauritian premier, arrives at the saluting base at 0429 GMT and is received by Prime Minister V.P. Singh. As the president stands at the saluting base, the national flag is hoisted, the national anthem played, and a 21-gun salute is given. Five helicopters carrying national flags and showering rose petals on the crowd are seen flying over the parade venue.

The parade begins at 0433 GMT with the president taking the salute. The parade, which is led by Major General Vinod Wadhwar, the general officer commanding, Delhi area, comprises marching columns of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and paramilitary forces, and the display of defense equipment, including Indian-made Vijayanta and T-72 tanks equipped with 125-mm

guns; bridge-laying vehicles; 105-mm light field guns; 130- and 155-mm howitzers and artillery pieces; 122-mm rocket launchers; 40-mm L-70 guns controlled by the new Flycatcher radar, displayed for the first time; light air defense missiles; armored vehicles equipped with antitank weapons; infantry combat vehicles; part of a mechanized infantry battalion; Army jeeps mounted with recoilless guns; antitank guided missiles; surface-to-air missiles; an Army float depicting the Siachen Glacier; the Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed warships—INS Kukri, which can also carry helicopters, and INS Magar; the Air Force's Jaguar deep strike aircraft; MiG-27 aircraft; ST68 U and P-18 radars; laser guided missiles; surface-to-air missiles; and the Indian Coast Guard's offshore patrol vehicle.

The military parade is followed by a cultural pageant, which includes the marching past of 22 decorated tableaux and dancing troupes depicting sociocultural life of the people of various states and socioeconomic development of India. The grand finale is provided by school children, attired in colorful costumes, entertaining the people with dances and music. The 165-minute military parade and cultural pageantry end at 0640 GMT.

The video then shows President R. Venkataraman, accompanied by Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, departing from the parade venue in a car escorted by the president's cavalry bodyguards. The vice president and the prime minister are later shown departing from the venue in separate cars. No speeches are made. The live coverage ends at 0644 GMT.

President's Republic Day Address

BK2501152990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Address to the nation by President R. Venkataraman the eve of India's Republic Day—recorded]

[Text] Friends: On the eve of the 41st Republic Day, I offer my greetings to all our nationals living in India and abroad. This is a memorable day for us since it was on this day in 1950 that the different parts of India—namely, the princely states, the erstwhile British provinces, and the agencies—were brought together under one constitution and welded into a union of states. The distinguished Hindi poet Balakrishna Sharma Naveen captures the mood of the nation when he wrote: From crores upon crores of voices, one single music note is heard—this Bharatwarsh [India] is ours now, ours is Hindustan [India]. [preceding 20 words in Hindi]

It was also on this day that the citizens of India were guaranteed fundamental rights to life and liberty and were freed from exploitation and discrimination. Above all, it was on this day that every citizen of India emerged as the sovereign of the country through the adoption of universal adult franchise. Adult franchise is the most powerful instrument devised by man for breaking down social and economic injustice and destroying barriers of caste, creed, and religion. It has given the right to the people to choose a government through the democratic process of elections.

In my Independence Day address last year, I had emphasized the importance of free and fair elections. It is imperative that the elections be free from maladies, from coercion, violence, and booth capturing. I am happy that the recent elections to the ninth Lok Sabha has by and large reflected the people's will, though instances of election malpractices and violence were reported from various areas. That nearly 300 million people exercised their franchise and brought about a smooth transition in government, especially at a time when elsewhere changes of governments have occurred through bitter and violent processes, is a highest tribute to the Indian people and Indian democracy.

The people of India may be poor, many of them may be illiterate, but few societies in the world can match the Indian people in the confidence and maturity with which they exercise their democratic rights. Commentators who used to talk patronizingly of the Indian experiment must acknowledge the democratic expertise that India has developed since independence. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the people of India as a whole on the disciplined exercise of democratic rights. I also wish to compliment the Election Commission, the electoral officers, and other administrative staff for their methodical, systematic, and fair conduct of the elections. I am confident that in the elections to the state legislatures which lie ahead of us, some of the electoral malpractices noticed during the Lok Sabha elections will be eschewed by political parties and their associates.

In any democracy the people do want and have every right to change the government according to their wish in a peaceful and orderly manner. Monopoly of political powers is an attribute of dictatorships. Hence, a success or failure in election should not be equated to victory or defeat in a war, but rather to one's performance in a sports contest, and contestants must remember that it is only by playing the game according to the rules that democracy can be sustained. Democracy is the rule of law. It is also a rule of reason. It is in fact a rule by consensus. Every effort should, therefore, be made to arrive at a consensus on all national issues. In a healthy democracy both the ruling party and the opposition have a responsibility to the country and surely, the people will judge them in the discharge of that responsibility.

But I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my belief that apart from the responsibility that devolves on the government and on the opposition, a great responsibility rests with the people themselves. It is wrong to imagine that only governments have a duty to maintain law and order, peace, harmony, and progress. The citizens bear an equal responsibility in this regard. Citizenship, it is rightly said, is a bond. It is a bond between the citizens and the state. In it one sustains and

is sustained by the other. And that is why our constitution lays down both fundamental rights and fundamental duties.

The late V.S. Srinivas Shastri laid down three down three basic postulates which make an ideal citizen:

1. A sense of public spirit, meaning thereby a desire to sink one's personal ends in the larger ends of the community.

2. A practical common sense, meaning thereby an ability to cope with and overcome the challenges to individual and collective lives that arise from time to time.

3. An ability to understand and appreciate what constitutes the welfare of society—that is, what are the different elements that go to make up that welfare.

The assumption of office by any new government confers on it many new opportunities. But the most important of these is the opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the citizen and the state. The citizens and the state working together can generate a kinetic energy and could transform Indian life.

We are all rightly proud of our manifold achievements in agriculture, in industry, and in the development of our immensely promising infrastructure of science and technology. But our journey cannot be considered complete until we have achieved an equitable distribution of the fruits of these major achievements. The elimination of poverty among our people and the creation of opportunities for gainful employment should be placed at the top of the nation's agenda. The promotion of small-scale industries, schemes for self-employment, the strengthening of the services sector and other infrastructure needs to be given renewed impetus. More than anything else, India's startling advances in the field of science and technology need to get integrated with the rhythms of our people's lives.

The palpable transfer of resources to the advantage of rural India is therefore required urgently. This transfer will have to be specifically aimed at strengthening the underprivileged sections like the scheduled castes and tribes, the urban dispossessed, and our women.

The welfare of weaker sections of our society has been entrusted to the nation's collective care by the founding father of our polity. Their advancement must therefore be regarded by the nation as its privilege. The quality of life of the people living below the poverty line is a matter of the most urgent concern. The lack of employment opportunities among them, the low level of medical care, including protected water supply, and elementary education cry out for action.

Through the steps such as the free and compulsory education for children under 14 and educational coverage for girls, the great disparities in our society can be removed. The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed year 1990 as the international literacy year. We must utilize this opportunity to initiate a series of nation-building activities aimed at imparting a sense of urgency to the problems of illiteracy. I understand that measures have been initiated at various levels and that plans for complete elimination of illiteracy have been approved for Kerala, Goa, and Pondicherry. These will have to be extended to major cities, districts, and development blocks.

I shall like to take this opportunity to share with you two other deep concerns. The first is about the scourge of inflation, which impoverishes the weaker sections continuously and undermines the nation surreptitiously. There is a need for drastically pruning public expenditure and ostentatious private spending. Investments that do not provide commensurate returns have to be ruthlessly cut down and all unnecessary and wasteful expenditure completely eliminated. In the last 2 decades, the savings of the middle and lower middle classes have been greatly eroding and they have been robbed of the fruits of their labor. This section of the population is inarticulate and suffers in silence, but it also constitutes the most explosive element in the society.

Secondly, we as a developing nation will be unrealistic if we do not pay adequate attention to the continuing increase in our population. The problem of unemployment and the miseries that accompany it are the direct result of a runaway population growth. The government at the center and the states must—with the cooperation of voluntary agencies—make family limitations a people's program. Only then can the rise in the population be contained. If this important problem does not receive the attention it needs from the citizens and the state, all the progress achieved by us at great expense and effort will get nullified.

Friends, perhaps the most important of the fundamental duties enshrined in our Constitution is the one that enjoins us to promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India—transcending religious, linguistic, regional, or factional diversities. Our saints from Kabir to Guru Nanek and the father of the nation, Mahatama Gandhi, had spoken of harmony among our different communities as a voice and natural way of life of our people.

The people of India seek peace. They long for an environment in which their tradition of concord can continue uninterrupted. The acts of terrorism which have (?disrupted) life in parts of India are repugnant to our culture and civilization. In recent times, the barbaric practice of taking hostages has also been witnessed by us with dismay. Terrorists who perpetrate such crimes do not represent the people, nor the causes which they presume to represent. Terrorists act only for themselves and for their narrow mercenary ends. They only help to breed tensions, suspicion, and hatred.

I am deeply disturbed by the fact that in some parts of the country terrorists have received encouragement and assistance from beyond our national borders. I would like to take this opportunity to make a specific appeal to

our fellow citizens in the State of Jammu and Kashmir to give no quarter to terrorism and violence. The people of Jammu and Kashmir and of Punjab will, I am confident, render to the government and administration their unstinted cooperation in the task of maintaining order and national security.

There are no aspirations which cannot be met, no anxieties which cannot be allayed, no hurts which cannot be healed by dialogue. Differences there may be among fellow Indians, but suspicion is out of place. Likewise, grievances there may be, but let us not permit a recrimination. Let divergence not deepen into antagonism. An honest desire to understand the other's feelings can unlock closed hearts and thaw frozen minds. Let amity and understanding prevail over anger and animosity.

India is a mosaic of culture. It is in our nature and instinct to seek to live in peace with our neighbors and strive for a nonviolent world order. We have no aggressive intentions against any country in the world. Power has not attracted us; principles have.

The policy of nonalignment evolved by the architect of modern India and the world statesman, Jawaharlal Nehru, has enabled us to carry forward our struggle against imperialism and colonialism. Revitalizing and strengthening ties with our neighbors in South Asia are also a matter of priority for us. We firmly believe in resolving bilateral and international issues by dialogue and discussion. It is India's hope that with the brightening prospects of improved East-West relations, the world will give up the expensive arms race and turn its resources and energies to the urgent need of the family of man.

An anniversary such as Republic Day affords me an opportunity to share some of my deepest thoughts with fellow countrymen. I have done so once again with the hope and confidence that as we enter the 5th decade of our life as a republic the benediction of all saints and statesmen born in our ancient land will abide with us. May I offer Republic Day greetings to all sons and daughters of India; to our painstaking kisans and mazdoors [peasants and laborers]; to our spinners, weavers, and village artisans; to our entrepreneurs and technocrats; to our scientists, administrators, creative artists, writers, teachers and students. I have great pleasure in extending a special word of greetings to our valiant jawans [soldiers], sailors, and airmen who maintain an unremitting vigil on our borders. It is their patriotism and bravery that guards our freedom and ensures our rapid economic development.

I will conclude with the quotation from the distinguished Tamil scholar and yogi, Subbananda Bharati: The lines mean may the curse of separatism and religious frenzy abate, may our thoughts be lofty, our morale high, and may truth prevail everlastingly. [preceding 25 words in Tamil] Long live people's republic of Bharat. Hail India.

PATRIOT Calls For Development of Domestic ICBM

BK2201142490 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "India's ICBM"]

[Text] In the past two years, the Defence R&D [Research and Development] Organisation has developed a range of missiles for the armed forces—from "Nag", the anti-tank missile, "Prithvi", the surface to surface missile, to "Trishul" surface to air, and, finally, "Agni", the intermediate range ballistic missile [IRBM]. These developments are the results of the decision taken around 1981 that India will remain vulnerable without missile capability in the armed forces. The decision was hastened after China acquired missiles in the late 1970s. In retrospect, it turns out to be a judicious decision. In India's neighbourhood the Saudis have the IRBM, thanks to China. Pakistan has some missiles and is developing others (and failing which, it can get this from China). Iraq has a range of missiles and it has tested a rocket with the capability of an IRBM. Israel is also reported to possess a variety of missiles, including the IRBM. However the case of the intercontinental ballistic missile, ICBM, with a range of 5000 km, is different. The two super-powers and China have deployed them in their defence system while France and Britain have built them for their submarines and Japan has the capability. Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, director of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, has said that, if given the go-ahead, and provided the resources, India can build the ICBM. But the issue here is mainly political. Does the security environment of 1997 warrant our possession of the ICBM? In terms of relative priorities, with our per capita income being below 300 U.S. dollars, should we go for the ICBM which we can make nuclear if the contingency arises? The objection on the ground of proliferation is largely irrelevant because proliferation has already taken place. If the ICBM is going to be as common in 2001 as the IRBM will be in 1993, why wait for that day, at least in capability building? After achieving competence, one can pause. The Government must not take a strong ideological stand against this.

IRNA Cites Leading Muslims on Jammu, Kashmir

LD2401161590 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 24, IRNA—Maulana Imam Bukhari Wednesday called on the Indian Government to dismiss the new governor of Jammu who, in his opinion, has been responsible for mass killings of Muslims in Kashimir during the past few days.

In a telephone contact with IRNA here, Imam Bukhari said that the problem in Jammu and Kashmir would not be solved by force but by peaceful means and with due respect to the natural and inalienable rights of the Muslim community.

The present governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jag Mohan has been periodically assigned to the post since 1984. Former Indian Prime Minister and head of the opposition Congress Party Rajiv Gandhi had previously disapproved Mohan's appointment to the post.

Meanwhile Maulana Mohammad Abbas Ansari a leading Muslim of the United Front Party said in a statement sent to IRNA here Tuesday that Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir are determined to prove to the world, by all possible means, that "the Indian Government which claims to be supporter of minorities is turning Kashmir into a ruinous state."

He said the martial law in Jammu and Kashmir is also exploited as a means for violating women, and as a licence to raid houses, and create a condition of terror improper for the conduct of normal Muslim rituals.

The Muslim personality stressed that for a long time now Muslims have been suppressed in Kashmir, adding that during Rajiv Gandhi's government a Sikh was in charge of the Interior Ministry to suppress the Sikhs and that now a Muslim is commissioned to do the same to entirety of the Muslim community.

He said in his statement that there are indications troops of the Indian Army are being dispatched to Jammu and Kashmir "in order to massacre the people."

Muslims in the territory staged protest demonstrations during the past few days and only in the past three days over 200 of them were killed or wounded in Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Motorcycle Pillion Riding Banned in Srinagar

BK2601040990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, motorcycle and scooter pillion riding has been banned for the next 2 months in Srinagar city. This decision was announced last evening by the district magistrate of Srinagar after yesterday's incident in which motorcycle-borne terrorists killed four Air Force personnel and injured nine others by spraying bullets in Rawalpura area.

Reports from Srinagar this morning say that no curfew relaxation is to be given in the city today. The curfew has been relaxed for varying duration in Anantnag, Baramula, Kotwara, Badgam, Pulwama, Handwara, and Tregam.

The center has rushed a team of top officials to Srinagar to review the supply position of essential commodities in Jammu and Kashmir. The team will also analyze the immediate power requirement of Srinagar and other cities in the valley. To strengthen the law and order machinery, additional BSF [Border Security Force] units have also been rushed to the state.

Iran

Council of Guardians Says 5-Year Plan Un-Islamic

LD2501201990 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—The Guardian Council returned the first five-year economic, social and cultural development plan to the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) Thursday for further deliberations, the council's public relations office announced.

It said the council had found some notes in the plan to be incompatible with the Islamic Law.

The Majles approved the plan on January 9 after one month of discussion.

According to the constitution, the Guardian Council is authorized to review all the Majles approvals and give the final say for their enactment.

The Five-Year Plan was originally formulated by the ex-prime minister Hoseyn Musavi after consideration in more than hundred sessions attended by related ministers and experts.

Velayati Sends Message to Shevardnadze

LD2501183990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The message of Iranian Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati to Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, has been given to Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet deputy foreign affairs minister, in Moscow, by Mr Nasi Hayrani-Nobari, our country's ambassador in the Soviet Union.

The message is sent in line with the mission given to our country's foreign affairs minister by the cabinet and the president regarding serious measures in order to resolve the Soviet Azarbaijan problems, stop the bloodshed, and halt the continued violence there.

The message stresses the Islamic Republic's main policy based on noninterference in the internal affairs of others, the Iranian commitment toward human rights, and the future of Muslims. It also expresses regret for the recent events in the Soviet Republic of Azarbaijan and calls for an immediate end to the crisis through peaceful means.

Our country's ambassador to the Soviet Union, in discussions with that country's deputy foreign affairs minister in Moscow, announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to assist in any way that might result in immediately resolving the crisis through peaceful means. He stressed that the West is trying to deepen the crisis in the Soviet Republic of Azarbaijan through its support for military action in that country. Therefore, an immediate end to the military action and a resolution of the issue through political means are essential.

In the discussion, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its readiness to receive a Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation in order to hold more discussions in Tehran, a move welcomed by the Soviet Union. It was decided that the visit will take place soon.

Mohtashemi Assails Gorbachev on Muslims' Treatment

NC2601093490 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 90 p 14

[Commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "Kremlin's Swamp, Soviet Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Gorbachev has proved in the past week that the slogans about bestowing greater political and economic freedom on the people of the Soviet Union have all been shackled and encased in the shiny steel cage of the slogans of political and economic freedom and American-style human rights.

This Western-style political freedom entails deceit and treachery, and lulling people into a stupor. At the same time, it commits murder, massacre, and pillage, and carries out acts of aggression against the human rights of its own citizens and those of other countries.

It has now become clear that the propaganda slogans of perestroyka and economic prosperity, and the propagation of a Western capitalistic culture of unbridled licentiousness have resulted in the emergence of cartels and wealthy magnates in the private sector and have transformed the masses of the people in general into obedient slaves. If they fail to conform, they are burned in smelting furnaces, suffocated in collieries, or killed on the streets of Baku, Nakhijevan, Qarabaq, and the Muslim-inhabited cities and villages of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and, finally, Turkmenistan.

The catastrophic events and ruthless massacre in Azerbaijan by the Red Army and the KGB under Soviet authority in the past few days are a manifestation of the repressive and annihilatory culture of world arrogance of the Western and American type, which is accompanied by the slogans of political and religious freedom in the Soviet Union.

Now, in order to fight against Islam, Mr Gorbachev has the Marxist sword of Lenin and Stalin in one hand and the poison-tipped spear of the U.S. White House in the other and is poised ready to aim at the hearts of the Muslims and Islam.

What answer will Mr Gorbachev give to the population of over 60 million Muslims in the Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics? What answer does Mr Gorbachev have about the calamitous killing of hundreds of Muslims in the Soviet cities and villages for the crime of wanting Islam and defending their fundamental rights, for the Islamic revolution and the revolutionary Islamic nation, as well as the 1 billion Muslims of the world?

Mr Gorbachev should know that the power of the inmates of the Kremlin has not been and is not greater than the power of the U.S. arch Satan. The Muslim nation which is under the Moscow central government is not alone in the world of Islam. It would be worth the Soviet Union's time to learn a lesson from the fate of the United States and Israel in Lebanon and Palestine, or from its own fate in Afghanistan, so that it may refrain from falling into the swamp that the United States has prepared for it.

To lock horns with Islam and the Muslims is tantamount to playing with fire. The world of revolutionary Islam and the Hezbollah resistance forces [niruha] are lying in wait for the enemies of Islam and the Muslims.

Islamic Students Send Letter to Gorbachev

LD2501190190 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—In an open letter to the Soviet leader today the Union of the Islamic Associations of College Students strongly denounced the massacre of Muslims in the Azerbaijan Republic, calling that those responsible for the crime be brought to justice.

Addressing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the letter pointed out "if you are committed to your declared principles (reforms), you should allow Muslims to practice their divine school of thought and provide them with necessary facilities."

"But regrettably," said the Muslim students "you have shown that you cannot tolerate the upheaval which is gaining momentum with the awakening of the Muslims."

The open letter charged that the U.S. was behind the genocide of Muslims in Azerbaijan, and felt pity that the Soviet leadership seems to have been entrapped by the machinations of the Great Satan.

It also cautioned the Soviet leader against the continuation of the Red Army's inhuman behaviour towards Muslims which it is said might deprive Gorbachev of an opportunity to preach perestroyka, something which the U.S. is longing for.

Soviet military intervention in Azerbaijan and the resulting killing of Muslim civilians, has infuriated world Muslims especially Iranians who share a close religious-cultural affinity, and yesterday, Tehran University students had held a mourning ceremony on the campus for the slain Azerbaijanis.

USSR Stops Aras River Bridge Construction

LD2501185190 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Poldasht (East Azarbayjan), Jan. 25, IRNA—Soviet security and border in the Republic of Azarbaijan stopped construction work of a bridge over the border River Aras. [sentence as received] The bridge was being

built by Muslims of Azerbaijan Republic in order to facilitate travels to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Azerbaijan TV Broadcasting From Different Cities

LD2501153190 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Ardebil, E. Azerbaijan Prov., Jan. 25, IRNA—Some 559 people from different ethnic groups had lost their lives during the Soviet military operation on Baku, republic of Azerbaijan, Baku television announced Wednesday night.

The television which has been airing its programs secretly from a different city each time, broadcast its program via the city of Lenkron Wednesday night [24 January].

Meanwhile, a report from Astra said, forty-three supporters of the Supreme Council of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan have been arrested by the Soviet Government agents, Shusha television of the Azerbaijan Republic announced Wednesday night.

The television announcer stressing that Soviet Muslims were not seeking secessionist goals, called on the people of this region to continue their struggle.

Further in the program Mrs. Elmira Kakazia, one of the leaders of the movement called on international forums and foreign countries to help the movement, and urged the people to keep their unity in the course of the struggle.

Security Guards Foil Hijack of Domestic Flight

LD2601103290 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—An attempt to hijack an Iranian passenger plane was foiled last night and two hijackers were wounded.

A statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps today, did not disclose the exact number of the hijackers and only said that "a number of armed terrorists" tried to hijack an Iran Air passenger plane on a Shiraz-Bandar-e 'Abbas flight.

It said the attempt was foiled by the security guards inside the plane "who acted on time and arrested the hijackers." However, it said, two of the hijackers were wounded.

It identified the plane as a Boeing 727 with flight number 133 which took off from Shiraz at 19:30 hours local time. After the hijack attempt was foiled, the plane returned to Shiraz and landed there safely, it said, adding that all the passengers were fine.

The statement also said the hijacker had taken a crew member of the plane hostage to force the pilot to fly to their desired destination.

The attempt is taking place as Iran prepares to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the victory of its Islamic revolution (Feb. 11).

In another statement issued by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps later today, it said the hijackers were four and that all of them had been killed in the shoot-out. The earlier statement said two of them had been injured. It said the [Words indistinct] hijack the passenger plane occurred 90 miles from Shiraz as it was heading to Bandar-e 'Abbas in southern Iran.

The statement said investigations were underway to identify the hijackers.

Egyptian Fundamentalists 'Reject' New Minister

NC2601062390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] It is believed that dismissal of former Egyptian interior minister Zaki Badr, who is noted for his blatant hostility to fundamentalists, was a step in line with a Western-U.S. plan to resist the Islamic awakening. This step is currently part of attempts to circumvent the Islamic revival. Along with this repressive campaign, some concessions have been made to the fundamentalists, allowing them a measure of freedom. Within this framework and as a part of an international plan, the new interior minister, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, has promised to release fundamentalist detainees in order to create a good impression among the Egyptian people.

Musa, however, did not keep his promise for long. He soon showed his true intentions toward Egyptian fundamentalists, demonstrating his hostility to Islam by preventing Islamic demonstrations and gatherings in mosques and by ordering police and security organs to surround mosques. There seems to be two reasons for his measures:

1. The Islamic trend in Egypt has become so strong that it cannot tolerate deceptive means; and,

2. The increasing Islammaic awareness in Egypt makes it easy for the Egyptian people to know the motives and intentions of the new change that brought Musa to the Interior Ministry.

Musa found out that it is imperative to pursue the line of his predecessor Zaki Badr. The Egyptian mujahdin emphasized that the new interior minister has chosen to hold a dialogue through bullets. Thus the Islamic group in Egypt released a statement which declared that the group will reserve the right to organize meetings and marches in streets and squares as long as Musa's groups continue to surround mosques, harass Muslims, and prevent them from performing their Islamic rites.

An Egyptian fundamentalist was martyred and others were injured recently when the Egyptian police attacked

Muslims in Asyut on orders from the new interior minister. A number of Muslims had taken to the streets in a peaceful demonstration calling for an end to the state of emergency in effect since al-Sadat was killed, applying Islamic shari'a, and bringing executioner Zaki Badr to court for his ugly crimes while in office.

President Tours Khark Island Oil Installations

LD2501171290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, arrived this afternoon on Khark Island to inspect the Bushehr Province oil installations. He was welcomed by the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [Supreme jurisconsult], the Friday imam of Bushehr, the governor-general, and the local officials of that province.

Immediately after his arrival on Khark Island, President Rafsanjani took part in the gathering of the combatant people of the island, referring in his remarks to the struggles during the time of the war. He said: There was not a moment of peace for this island at that time and the people showed a very good resistance. The military forces also showed a high level of bravery and courage. At the same time, all world commentators were making the analysis that Iran will be finally defeated in Khark. But through self-sacrifice, resistance, and enthiusiasm, the island was protected.

Our country's president then referred to the people of the island's efforts during the time of the reconstruction, saying: The people of Khark Island will continue their efforts during the time of reconstruction with as much strength and with the same responsible feeling.

Notes Importance of Oil Terminal

LD2501225890 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Khark Island, Jan. 25, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here this evening on an inspection tour of Iran's economic and industrial centers in the Persian Gulf. Upon arrival, the president said his visit was aimed at inspecting the pace of reconstruction work and to appraise the efforts of those working on the island, which has Iran's major oil loading terminal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the strategically-important island was a target which the Iraqi enemy had never missed an opportunity to destroy.

He termed the men who worked on the island at the most difficult junctures of the war as 'heroes of the Islamic homeland and source of pride for their people.'

'We opened a new chapter in history, showing to the world that men are able to emerge successfully through the most difficult problems, and this is what we witnessed on Khark,' the president noted.

He referred to the current no-war-no-peace situation, and made it clear that the country was quite ready to cope with any unfriendly action.

However, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, it is now time to rebuild and the role of people working on the vital oil terminal in the reconstruction era is as important as during the period of the imposed war.

Majles Committee Urges Implementing Resolution

LD2501113490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] In the wake of the Iraqi regime's procrastination in implementing Security Council Resolution 598 and its obstructionism, the Majles Foreign Policy Committee has issued a statement addressed to the world parliaments, asking them to encourage the Iraqi regime to implement Resolution 598 speedily and unconditionally. World parliaments have also been asked to employ all their political and diplomatic means to prevent the Iraqi regime from delaying and obstructing the full implementation of this resolution, which is the sole guaranteed means to restore lasting peace in the region.

Families of MKO Victims Demand To See Pohl

LD2401205590 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Families of those assassinated by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) outlaws demonstrated at the U.N. Mission here today, demanding a meeting with the U.N-despatched human rights investigator.

The oppressed families who where victims of terrorism, stayed for hours in the freezing weather outside, but failed to get any response from Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the Salvadorean lawyer, who is here to probe alleged human rights abuses in the Islamic Republic.

The group, which held a similar gathering yesterday, were rather disappointed after learning that their request for a meeting with the man who has come to probe the baseless claims, was turned down.

Interviewed by IRNA, the oppressed families explained how their dear ones had been martyred by MKO terrorists, the same lawless elements who are raising a hue and cry about human rights in Islamic Iran, and whose allegations are behind Pohl's visit.

It seems the U.N. investigator has come to a wrong country to investigate human rights violations, as was evident today afternoon by the presence of another oppressed group outside the U.N. mission.

More than a hundred citizens of the Persian Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait, residing in Iran, called on Pohl and demanded the lifting of restrictions on Shiite Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula. The group

also called for an ivestigation into the condition of those imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for ideological beliefs.

A 26-year old Saudi citizen, who is studying at a theological school in Qom, told IRNA that he is unable to visit his homeland and his family because of fears of arrest and possible execution. The young theological student, who wanted to brief Pohl on the poor human rights conditions in Saudi Arabia, said that passports issued by the Riyadh regime, contains a warning against visit to the Islamic Republic.

With the approach of dusk and hopes receding for a meeting with Pohl who is supposed to probe human rights, the gathering gradually dispersed.

UN Human Rights Envoy Meets Martyrs' Families

LD2401205990 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Following the trip to Tehran of a UN envoy for human rights affairs a group of families whose sons have been martyred in terrorist operations gathered in front of the UN office in Tehran yesterday to meet with the UN envoy.

Meanwhile, all released prisoners signed a scroll installed in that place announcing that all of them have been arrested for armed activities to topple the Islamic Republic system and denying any propaganda on practice of torture in Iran's prisons.

According to our correspondent, the UN envoy received some of the families but did not receive a seven-member family who carried the picture of their two martyrs and had stayed before the UN office for hours.

'Reformed' MKO Members Criticize UN's Pohl

LD2401165690 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—The familiar scene was repeated yet once again, and today also the victims of terrorism and deceit failed to get a response from the Salvadorean lawyer who is here to investigate alleged human rights violations.

Most of those who assembled at the U.N. mission Thursday, demanding a meeting with Reynaldo Galindo Pohl the special envoy of the Human Rights Committee, had come from far-flung areas and waited for hours outside in the snowfall. They included a group of penitents from various cities, and around 200 relatives of the martyrs, POWs, and those missing in action, all chanting 'death to the monafeqin (Hypocrites)'.

Interviewed by IRNA, the reformed ex-members of the terrorist grouplet Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO), said they wanted to meet Pohl and inform him of the inhuman nature of the monafeqin, in order to foil the grouplet's deceptive propaganda, and reveal the real humane face of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, they resented that the U.N. human rights investigator has not yet bothered to meet the victims of terrorism and deceit.

The group of penitents said that the MKO grouplet has released 'a false misleading list' in its vain bid to tarnish the image of the Islamic Republic. Most of the names on the list, they pointed out, are of ex-members who had been set free after repentance.

Meanwhile, a BBC radio correspondent 'Alireza Nozari spoke to several of the reformed ex-members in front of the U.N. office, and promised that BBC would wire their interview tonight. The relatives of martyrs, who had come all the way from the Caspian city of Babol, also spoke of the foreign radio reporters and asked them to broadcast the facts.

The gathering dispersed at the approach of dusk after their persistent demands to see the the U.N. envoy went unanswered.

Pohl arrived here last Sunday to investigate alleged human rights abuses in Islamic Iran. Over the past few days several gatherings have been held in front of the U.N. mission, demanding a meeting but without success.

TEHRAN TIMES on Human Rights Inquiry

NC2501165890 Tehran TERHAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Human Rights Investigation, a Welcome Move"]

[Text] The International Human Rights Organization is sending Galindo Pohl to Tehran to investigate alleged human rights violations in the Islamic Republic.

Pohl is to arrive here next Saturday. The trip has been made possible only because Iran has agreed to it.

Such an initiative by the government is indeed welcome. It is the best way to neutralize baseless propaganda of the Western media which, once in a while, launch a mud-throwing campaign against Iran.

These media have also time after time accused the Islamic Republic of shunning from allowing the representatives of human rights organizations to inspect prisons and investigate possible cases of human rights violations.

The same media meanwhile miss no chance to saturate the news traffic lanes with misinformation and distorted pieces of reports in order to manipulate the opinion of the general public as well as human rights activists and organizations.

In their smearing campaign these media of course do receive tremendous support and assistance from their natural allies, the Iranian anti-revolutionary forces such as the Mojahedin-e (monafeqin) Khalq Organization (MKO) and the monarchists.

The line towed by these enemies, who are united around one single issue, i.e. enmity towards Iran and its Islamic Revolution, is only to distort the image of the country.

It is highly hoped that the representative of the International Human Rights Organization in his imminent trip to Iran is well aware of the smearing campaign of the forces hostile to this Islamic country.

It is hoped that he will not arrive at any conclusion before a thorough scrutiny of every single case is complete. In other words, this investigation should be a totally independent human rights study never allowing the enemies to use human rights organization as a means to pressure Iran.

But there is also a rather technical problem as far as human rights in the West and human rights in the Islamic context are concerned. This problem i.e. the difference that exists between these two versions of human rights should be taken up by all those interested to investigate the case.

One good instance of this different approach came into the open over the last year's hue and cry raised on Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses."

The West regarded the right to publish a blasphemous book injurious to the religious sensibility and beliefs of a billion-strong community of Muslims as part of the human rights they preach.

When faced with the raging Muslims over the issue at international level, the West only showed its cultural bankruptcy by terming the Muslim protest a violation of the human rights!

Yet the West's double standards of human rights failed resoundingly when the world witnessed last month how the so-called champion of democracy, the U.S., openly attacked an independent country, Panama. This time too the assault was made under the protection of a peculiar concept of human rights that can stretch enough to always fit their own diabolic designs. Now if the world accepts the Western human rights version, it has to meekly and myopically also yield to Western hegemony across the globe.

By and large, Iran's decision to allow the International Human Rights Organization to investigate the human rights situation in the country is a welcome move which will hopefully prove the enemies wrong once again.

AFP Claims 14 'Religious Imposters' Executed

NC2401181690 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 24 (AFP)—Fourteen "religious imposters" have been executed in Iran since a special tribunal for clerics was set up in 1986 on the orders of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, a senior official was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, Iran's prosecutor general, said in statements carried by newspapers here that the 14 had committed "various offenses in the framework of their functions" and made "a false use of the religious cloak." He did not specify the exact nature of the charges, but said the 14 executed since 1986 were all "religious imposters."

Mr. Reyshahri also charged that followers of Mehdi Hashemi, who was executed in 1987 for carrying out "plots against the Islamic Revolution," were present in Koranic (theological) schools in the holy city of Qom. He added that 286 other phony clerics had been barred from exercising any kind of religious authority.

The special tribunal was created to try Mr. Hashemi, the former head of the Iranian aid office to Islamic movements abroad, who was accused of mismanagement but could not be brought before a civilian court because he was a senior cleric.

Economic Delegation Leaves Italy for France

LD2201183890 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Rome, Jan. 22, IRNA—The Iranian economic delegation led by Deputy Mines and Metals Minister 'Ali Shams Ardakani left Genoa for Paris Monday afternoon.

During its 4-day stay in Italy the delegation discussed with Italian officials and industrialists ways of mutual cooperation for the upcoming five-year plan of the Islamic Republic. The Iranian delegation also visited industrial sites in Rome and Milan, and after talks, the two countries decided to cooperate in the steel, mining, petrochemical, industrial and agricultural sectors.

The two sides also reviewed preliminary programmes for convention of the Iran-Italy Economic Commission meet, which is to be held in Tehran and Rome respectively two months from now.

The Iranian delegates left for Paris after talks with officials of the Pianetti Company in Genoa, which is helping Iran build the Mobarakeh steel plant near Isfahan. Ardakani and his team are to discuss economic cooperation with French officials.

Border Trade Protocol Signed With Turkey

LD2401120290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Within the framework of regulations governing border exchanges, last night the first border trade protocol was signed between the provinces of Western Azarbayjan and Erzerum in Turkey by the governors of these provinces, in Urmiyeh. According to IRNA, under this protocol peddlers and traders of these provinces can exchange, each time, up to $50,000 worth of lawful commodities and goods. The report states that the total ceiling of the exchanges each year has been set at $15 million and there is nothing to stop this figure from

rising. According to another section of this protocol, an exhibition of the produce, industries, and commodities of Western Azarbayjan Province will be organized in Erzerum, in Turkey, and a similar exhibition will be mounted in Urmiyeh. The area where goods will be exchanged is the Bazargan border; and the exchanges between the two sides will be conducted in dollars, rials, and Turkish lira.

Another clause of this protocol provides for exchange visits by sports and cultural groups in the two provinces. Governor Ata'i of Western Azarbayjan, said in an interview with IRNA after the signing of the protocol that the Province of Erzerum is the fifth Turkish province to undertake border trade exchanges with Western Azarbayjan after obtaining permission from the Turkish Government. He added: Up to now the provinces of Van, Agri, Hakkari, and (Qariz), in Turkey, have had border trade exchanges with Western Azarbayjan which prompted the establishment of a common market in the Sarisuy region of Maku so as to facilitate the transaction of goods. He added: In the future too, common markets will be set up for the exchange conducted by peddlars and merchants in the border regions of Razi, Khoy, and Serow, in Urumiyeh.

Amrollah Zalibeg, the governor of Erzerum, also expressed his pleasure at the signing of this protocol between the two Muslim and neighbor nations of Iran and Turkey, and said: I hope that this protocol will act as a base for the formation of an Islamic common market.

Pakistani Assembly Speaker Ends Visit, Departs

LD2401163190 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Before departing for Islamabad Wednesday, Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Malik Meraj Khalid described his week-long stay in Iran as 'fruitful and successful.'

Khalid, who arrived on January 17 at the head of a parliamentary delegation, expressed hope that exchange of visits between the two countries' parliamentary delegation would increase in the future as agreed by Iran and Pakistan.

Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi who saw off Khalid and his entourage at Mehrabad Airport, termed the visit of the Pakistani delegation as 'effective in consolidating relations between the two Muslim neighbours.'

Karrubi said that he and Khalid agreed to follow up earlier agreements between the two countries in relations to border issues as worked out during Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri's visit to Islamabad a few months back. Common ties and solidarity warrants that the two countries could coordinate their views on border cooperation and on relations with other neighbouring states, he said.

The Majles speaker also strongly condemned the massacre of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir by Indian troops.

During their stay, Khalid and his entourage also met President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Foreign Credits To Be Used for Major Projects

LD2001223890 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—A senior Iranian official today said that during the upcoming 5-year development plan, foreign source and credits would be used for implementing projects concerning gas, petrochemicals, electricity, dam-building, and for importing raw materials for manufacture and export of goods.

Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, head of the Plan and Budget Organization, said that the country's foreign exchange earnings during the Five Year Plan was foreseen at dlrs 120 billion, 70 percent of which would be earned from oil exports.

In an interview published by the weekly 'AYANEH' (MIRROR), Zanjani said that the government was to ease its control of economic affairs and would instead allow more private enterprise in this area. He continued that a total of rials 2,469 bn [billion] (dlrs 35.2 bn) would be invested in the industry sector, of which rials 900 bn (dlrs 12.8 bn) would be done by the private sector.

The volume of hard currency marked for the industry sector in the next 5 years was dlrs 22 bn, Zanjani said, adding that agriculture would absorb rial 2,866 bn (dlrs 40.9 bn).

He said that the unemployment rate would remain unchanged and that inflation rate would be reduced if all plans are properly enforced, and if the government would not face budget deficit.

Central Bank Denies Seeking Foreign Credit

LD2401121590 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—The Central Bank governor Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli today denied that Iran had asked for credits from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

A REUTER dispatch from Tokyo Tuesday quoted a Japanese Foreign Ministry official as saying that Iran wanted to resume borrowing from the IMF and World Bank to finance its post-war reconstruction.

Adeli told IRNA that Iran had held no talks with IMF and World Bank officials on extension of any loans or credits.

Air Force Commander Sattari Announces Maneuvers

LD2501133690 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic Air Force is to conduct its first independent maneuvers since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, code-named "Raad-1" (Thunder-1), late February, the Air Force commander said here Thursday.

Brigadier-General Mansur Sattari added that the second prototype Iranian-made airplane called Parastu (swallow) will be flown during the 10-day dawn (February 1-11) celebrations marking the 11th victory anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

He said the Air Force experts have taken long steps towards manufacturing, repairing and maintaining components and other parts used in various aircraft.

The Air Force has already started mass production of anti-aircraft guns, a large number of which would be put on display for public visit during the 10-day dawn period.

Iran's missile and air defence capability has doubled since it accepted the U.N. resolution 598 in July 1987, the commander concluded.

Zarabad TV Satellite Ground Station Commissioned

LD2101145590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Thanks to efforts by the personnel at the Zahedan television transmitter center's repair and maintenance unit, the satellite ground station in Zarabad, in the Konarak District of Chah Bahar, was installed and commissioned.

According to a Central News Unit report from Zahedan, with the commissioning of the station, villagers in the Zarabad area will be able to receive the programs of the first network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 7.

TEHRAN TIMES on Events in Azerbaijan

NC2501160090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Azerbaijan Issue: Yardstick for Glasnost"]

[Text] Soviet leadership has dispatched an 11,000-strong force to the troubled Azerbaijan and Armenian Republics. Furthermore, the Kremlin has also announced the situation in these two regions and some other parts of the union as "extraordinary."

Recent clashes between Soviet Azeris and Armenian people have left over 50 people dead already. These clashes of course have a long history and cannot be justified under the present circumstances.

But one thing is certain. In the past, both ethnic groups witnessed, in pent-up frustration, how the central government, especially under the dictator Stalin, trampled upon their civic rights, and how their basic liberties were relentlessly suppressed.

Their grievances therefore are quite understood. Yet, the rage in which these two ethnic groups, the Armenians and Azeris are wreaking vengeance upon each other will have to be condemned.

Instead of boosting the wind of change that is blowing over the USSR and, in case of persistance, can address a lot of grievances, the Azeris and Armenians have regrettably, in a rather reactionary manner, turned to blind killing causing a lot of innocent people's death to settle historical ethnic scores.

At the first glance then Moscow's troop deployment in the area may be justified under the central government's responsibility to curtail war in the country.

But this should not be forgotten that in the past the central government under other Soviet leaders too always took advantage of rather justifiable reasons to suppress popular moves.

Meanwhile incidents like cases of border river crossing repeated over recent days in Iran-Soviet border-lines provided fertile ground for the Islamic Republic to further destabilize the Moscow government if Tehran entertained any ill intention.

But to prove its decent intentions and desire for good neighborly ties the leaders in Tehran have indeed spared no effort since the outset of the unrest in its borders with the USSR.

But the Soviet leadership should by no means take advantage of Iran's good countenance and silence to suppress the Azeris by any available means.

The issue of deployment of troops in the restive areas has now aroused Iran's sensitivity as the regions around the Aras River where no Armenian-Azeri clashes have been reported are also included in the regions announced under extraordinary conditions.

In short the treatment of the Azeris, and other ethnic groups, by the central government troops will be a yardstick against which Gorbachev's "Glasnost" may be measured.

It can however be predicted that the outright suppression of Azeri Muslims by the Kremlin forces may have a very negative impact on Iran-USSR relations.

Editorial on Need To Respond to World Changes

NC2101132590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "International Developments Usher in New Polarizations"]

[Text] A Foreign Ministry-sponsored conference to study developments in the international order ended its forum yesterday.

The very setting up of such forums bear witness to the fact that the Islamic Republic's officials are very keenly cognizant of the sensitivity of the world politics and the sweeping changes that are taking over international relations and equations.

To advance the goals of the Islamic Revolution it is a must that the international order, possible new polarizations and the structure of power at the global level be very closely monitored and scrutinized.

It is only after a genuine understanding of whys and hows of thse developments that the government may proceed with decision making and bat for this or that position vis-a-vis developments of which we might at present see only the tip of an iceberg.

This issue, i.e. diligent attempts at going to the rootcause of political developments and coming up with the right analysis, is doubly important when it comes to a region as sensitive as ours in the Middle East.

The recent developments around the world especially in the Eastern Bloc are so infrastructural that they have indeed already set a very tortuous course for world's power structure for the years to come. In other words a lot of things will not still be clear to most people before the smokescreen that is pulled over them is set aside. It is then rather naive to expect a clear-cut and well-defined course, both for international polarization and trend of world politics, before the year 2000.

The two-pole world concept that overshadowed the last 40 years and determined the mind-set for world politics and political theories during almost half a century seems to be about undergoing a fundamental change. It may be a one-pole world or, even a multi-pole world by the end of the 20th Century.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's ideological, diplomatic and strategic features and goals runs counter to, or are at least different from, those of the dying two-pole world of recent decades.

It is best for the country not to remain a passive receiver of these developments and move fast, from a logical theoretical platform, to truly analyze and assess these developments. This will enable the government to foresee the course of future events and hence future course of action.

Setting up professional committees to monitor and conduct research on international relations and new political developments can help. The country should see its own strategic situation in the future geopolitical map of the world of the 90s.

Such academic-oriented research activities will help the officials to prepare for action in the face of the turbulent developments that will inevitably also spill over to Middle East.

In short, the present fundamental changes in the world forbode that a new polarization is in the making. We too had better prepare our course of action. We should ponder upon how to preserve our Islamic entity in the face of events that might prove quite formidable for this uniquely ideological country of ours.

'Campaign' Against Velayati, Montazeri Assailed

NC2101131490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Another Futile Propaganda Attempt Against Islamic Iran"]

[Text] Once in while the frustrated enemies of the Islamic Republic cash in on certain propaganda ploys to mar the image of Iran. But they feast on their newly found hopes for a couple of days or weeks at most, only to plunge headlong once again in dismay.

In recent days too Western media thought for a while that they had laid their hands on a good topic to launch an anti-Iran campaign. But the subject they chose for their mud-throwing campaign was so cheap and insignificant that it boomeranged and piled up more points in the red on their totally marred record of credibility.

In recent weeks two incidents in particular had duped the enemies including the Mojahedin-e (monafeqin) Khalq Organization (MKO), to launch a doomed campaign against the country. One was the issue of the impeachment of Foreign Minister Velayati over the then Romanian president Ceausescu's trip to Tehran last month.

Judging from what was going on in the Iranian Parliament (Majles), both the West and the MKO took the debates as indicative of a big schism in the legislative body. Not two days passed when all their propaganda attempts ended in tatters leaving them once again dumbfounded and wrong for the umpteenth time.

Another issue was a recent speech by the deposed vice-leader Ayatollah Montazeri which led to a popular demonstration against him and his views in Qom. The enemies, trying to scoop something out of what did not exist at all, made such a hue and cry over the issue! They carried it to the point that it seemed they themselves fell victim to their own propaganda and believed what they were saying!

The MKO went to the extent that they even attempted to show former chief justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli as siding with Montazeri and opposed to the Islamic Republic. What they preferred to turn a blind eye to was the fact that not even Montazeri

opposed to the Islamic order of the country let alone two prominent religious leaders Ayatollahs Ardabili and Amoli.

Since his dismissal from the post of vice-leader by the late Imam Khomeyni Montazeri has been teaching in Qom's theology schools. And it is no big deal that he has expressed certain criticism and faced popular protests for his views.

Has it not yet ever happened in the west that a deposed or resigned official comes up with criticism against the regime? Or, has it not yet occurred anywhere in the world that a cabinet minister is impeached by the Parliament? And is it very surprising that such a minister receives a word of support from high officials in the country?

These things do happen in the West and elsewhere in the world. But how come when thy take place in the West they are interpreted as signs of democracy and freedom but when they occure in Iran are taken as signs of big schism and turmoil?

When will the West stop using double standards of its democracy in sizing up other nations? How come demonstrations like the protest of Muslims in Britain are regarded as evidence of freedom and democracy but the slightest signs of difference in opinion in Iran should be taken as a power struggle and a fierce infighting?

The West and the enemies of the Islamic Republic had better come to terms with realities as the Third World nations too should be aware of baseless propaganda of the West against revolutionary nations.

Pakistan

President, Prime Minister Greet Indian Leaders

BK2601023190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have greeted President Venkataraman and Prime Minister V.P. Singh of India on the occasion of the Indian Republic Day today.

In his message, the president expressed Pakistan's sincere desire for establishing cooperative and good-neighborly relations between the two countries on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefits, which are essential for peace, stability, and economic development of the region.

In her message, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to establish tension-free and cooperative relations with India. She said efforts should be continued to maintain the process of normalization of bilateral relations for mutual benefit and for the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Minister Inaugurates F-16 Engine Overhaul Project

BK2401160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] An F-100 engine overhaul project was inaugurated in Kamra today. Under this program, the life of F-16 aircraft engines will be doubled.

The minister of state for defense, Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, inaugurated the project. He said that by acquiring the capability of rebuilding and improving F-16 aircraft engines locally at the aeronautical complex, Pakistan has achieved another significant success in defense production. He added that the government will provide all possible assistance to continue the project despite financial constraints.

Spokesman Repudiates Punjab Chief's Allegation

BK2601012890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] An Interior Ministry spokesman has strongly repudiated the allegation of the Punjab chief minister that Pakistan People's Party is causing disturbances in the Punjab. In a press statement today, he said that disturbances which continue are natural reaction of the people to the unbearable attitude of the police. Farooqabad, Moghulpura, Gujran, and (Chinote) have proved that people now know the hand behind these incidents. He said this is the hand of the patron of the Punjab police, the chief minister himself.

The spokesman said it is unfortunate that the Punjab chief minister is trying to transfer the blame. The federal government on its part has always extended him the hand of cooperation. But the chief minister should also set his own house in order.

5 Wounded by 'Blast' in Peshawar City

BK2501152490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] A blast occurred in Peshawar City at noon today in which five persons were injured. They were rushed to Lady Reading Hospital for treatment.

Display, Carrying of Firearms in Karachi Banned

BK2501153290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The commissioner of Karachi has promulgated Section 144 in all four districts of the division for 10 days effective tomorrow, banning display and carrying of firearms. People have been warned to refrain from carrying or displaying arms during this period.